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THURSDAY, MAY 7TH 2009

'Please save us from rat invasion' says residents

THE residents of a small close in Barry have been hit by an invasion of rats – and are demanding the Vale Council acts fast.

Months ago, council workers began clearing up a large mound of vegetation in parkland adjacent to Dale Court, but despite their good intentions, they disturbed the local rat population, which escaped all points north, south, east and west, including people's gardens!

Sinead Galvin (20) who lives in Dale Court with boyfriend Andrew Roberts (20) and their 18-month-old son, Jayden, said: "In the park at the end of the close, there was an area full of brambles, shrubs and weeds – people began dumping rubbish there like old sofas. It was a big mound.

"At the beginning of March, the council moved in to clear away the rubbish. They turned over the soil and levelled the area ready for re-turfing it.

ABOVE: Sinead and Andrew with son Jayden, who won't be going out into the garden until the rats have gone.

The only problem was it disturbed the rats' nests. "They started appearing in the back garden. At first I thought they were mice."

A year ago, Sinead endured a plague of mice and even saw one scuttling round in Jayden's Moses basket. In fairness to the Vale Council, repeated visits did solve the mice problem, but now the problem Sinead is faced with are the rats.

"I reported the problem to the council at the beginning of last week and they said they could get out to see what they could do in three weeks.

"I said that wasn't quick enough, and I think they realised I'd had the problem last year and they agreed to come this Tuesday.

"The problem is they're not visiting the neighbours until May 19, and they should deal with us as a block."

Andrew said the couple had seen some gruesome sights. "One day I saw a crow dangling a rat over the fence of the back garden. It was unbelievable. We can't let Jayden out in the back garden until the problem is sorted out."

ABOVE: A dead rat found in Lisa Hembury's garden.

The couple's near neighbour Lisa Hembury (32) has four children – Jake (11) Ethan (8) Lloyd (7) and Amy (2) – and they're banned from the back garden until further notice.

Lisa said: "It's disgusting. We've just got rid of the mice and now we're infested with rats.

"I've bought some rat traps which cost £4 each from a hardware shop in High Street.

"They are by the back door and in the middle of the grass in the garden where the rats gather.

"We won't go out into the back garden until they've gone."

Kristian James, team leader for pollution control, said: "It's not unusual for wildlife, including rodents, to be displaced on ground clearance. The council does provide a free pest control service for domestic premises, although this is very popular and demand is high and waiting times can be prolonged.

"If there is evidence of a fundamental problem in the area – for example, a defective sewer or chronic littering, then we can also provide advice to the appropriate council team or landowner.

"In the meantime, useful advice on the prevention and control of pests is available on the council's pest control web pages."

Vicky's thank you to family and the NHS after two year recovery from horror crash

by TIM CHAPMAN

ON May Day bank holiday two years ago, Vicky Zieba, who lives in Barry, set off on a motorcycle ride that led to a horrific accident.

But it was an event that showed that with the love and support of family, and the professionalism of the emergency services and NHS, a person can make a complete recovery.

"The May Day bank holiday weekend was the second anniversary of the accident in which I suffered serious injuries.

"On Sunday, May 6, 2007, a dry overcast day, my dad and I set off on a ride towards Rhoose."

Vicky's father David is a classic motorbike enthusiast with a love of the old British names like Norton and Triumph.

Vicky likes the more up-to-date sporting bikes and was riding a Honda CBR.

"As I approached the half moon bend near the entrance to Porthkerry caravan park, a freak gust of wind from the direction of the sea caught the side of my bike.

"I wobbled, lost control and was thrown from my bike.

"I still remember the thudding sound of my body hitting the road, and my helmet scratching and scraping through the grit until I skidded to a halt.

"I lost consciousness for a while – I don't know how long – and had no idea the bike had landed on top of me."

ROAD BLOCKED

The irony is that Vicky wasn't travelling that fast when the accident happened.

"I sometimes wonder whether I'd have missed that gust of wind if I'd been going quicker.

"When I started to come round I could hear my dad saying: 'Vicky, are you okay?'

"I was very much aware of the pain in my arms, and I can remember to this day the sensation of flying through the air, and then hitting the ground.

"I said: 'Dad, my arms hurt.'"

What happened next was almost miraculous. Among the people converging by chance on the scene were a nurse and a fire officer.

"The woman coming up behind us was a nurse, and she blocked the road to protect me from the traffic.

"In the other direction a fire officer was coming from Rhoose and he blocked off the traffic in the opposite direction.

"The only people not there were the AA or coastguard!

"The nurse asked if I was able to feel my legs – I was – and she told me not to move.

At the time my arms were trapped behind my body.

"The ambulance crew arrived in no time at all. On the way to the University Hospital of Wales they got my jacket off and cut away the sleeves of my jumper.

"One arm looked okay, but the other one looked a funny shape."

In fact Vicky had broken both arms – the forearms were smashed to pieces, and bones were sticking out through the flesh. She had also broken a finger and had a deep hole in her left leg.

"When I arrived at the Heath I was 13th in the queue to be operated on, but when they saw my injuries they decided to operate immediately due to the risk of infection."

She was in theatre for more than 13 hours as surgeons battled to put her arms back together and she now has plates inserted in both arms.

ABOVE: Two years since her accident, with the help of family and friends, and the expertise of the National Health Service, Vicky has made a full recovery.

For a week she lay in the hospital bed with her arms suspended above her."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Police warning after burglary

Vale Police are investigating a burglary of a house on Hinchcliffe Avenue in Barry.

It took place between 11.30pm on Sunday, May 4, and 8am the next morning. Cash, several bank cards and a mobile telephone were taken.

DC Rebecca Merchant of Barry CID said: "The burglars were able to gain access to the property because it was left insecure. "I am urging people to make sure they lock doors and windows, especially so when we are experiencing warmer weather."

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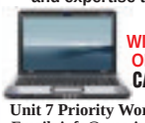
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Residents say thank you, Billy

AT the start of the Easter weekend, vandals once again targeted the children's playground in Cowbridge.

Paint was poured over all the seats of the roundabout and the adjacent newly-laid turf.

On behalf of many local residents, I would like to commend Billy, our stalwart council employee, who took on the task of restoring the roundabout to its original condition.

His efforts made it possible for our children to enjoy the park for the rest of the holiday.

It is heartening that despite a few mindless individuals, there are still people like Billy, who believe in a job well done.

S Price, Cowbridge

THE DEFENCE ACADEMY – I TOLD YOU SO!

I NOTICE with interest that people have woken up regarding the impact of the Academy.

Too late I fear, concerns on tourism, housing, environment, drainage are all now being brought up.

There was far too much secrecy at the start, with plans only being given to the public when it was ready for submission to the Government.

St Nicholas stopped the A48 trunking, Pendoylan is speaking up about the spoiling of the area for a new road, which is more about St Athan than the airport. Even Wenvoe is speaking out about a road.

Yet in the Vale, a whole new town, almost as big on the map as Penarth, is to be built and hardly a whisper has been heard. The time for consultation should have been at the start with the question 'Do you want it?'

All the relevant information should have been at hand to help people understand the implications, not just a consultation on already submitted plans.

I can understand folks remembering the RAF camp fondly, but it is in no way going to resemble that. It will change the area forever. Forget tourism.

...St Athan and Llantwit Major joined up by a vast expanse of concrete, so I understand, on both sides of the road.

The same voices made the same argument about the Red Dragon hangar. Look what a waste of money that was, and there never were thousands of jobs. At least I don't feel so lonely now!

Vickey Way, Llantwit Major

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Transport in the Vale – it's time to be bold!

I WOULD like to comment on a letter from Mr Knill of Pendoylan, and the statement from Mr Smith MP in The GEM (April 23) on the need for better transport links in the Vale.

Mr Smith states he has been campaigning for 20 years, but why the delay yet again on road links?

Mr Knill is of the opinion that everything is hunky-dory, things should stay the same, and that the statistical argument put forward by Mr Smith is flawed. (All statistical evidence is flawed, take it with a pinch of salt!) I realise there is an organised and vocal number of Pendoylan residents opposed to a link and bypass to the M4 – sending a drip, drip of letters to the newspaper.

How many opponents are in the village?

The implication is that the cost of the road is prohibitive – but in the scheme of things, opening up the western Vale, relieving congestion at Culverhouse Cross, north Barry and Wenvoe, would create jobs in construction at the time of the economic downturn.

This better access will lead to jobs in the future.

Now is the time for bold and imaginative infrastructure improvements, with walkways, cycle paths and landscaping. It could be a great opportunity.

If a vox pop was taken, given the choice of improving a death trap (Five Mile Lane), taking traffic away from schools, bypassing a village, introducing cycleways, landscaping said route and improving the prospects of employment for the future – or leaving things as they are with no plans for the future – I am sure that commonsense and fair play would prevail.

We should grasp sensible change with both hands.

Paul Robertson,
Barry.

Spend cash on improving toilets for beach visitors

A RAISED concrete path through the two muddy pinch points near Millay Mill, Llantwit Major, is much-needed, since it is often very muddy there in both summer and winter.

However, I would rather see the rest of the money spent on traffic calming and toilet improvements.

The speed limit on the road to the beach needs to be restricted to 20 miles per hour; with speed humps from both directions at the three bends – at Rosedew entrance, near the pumphouse and near the bottom kissing gate.

Having spent 35 years in the tourist trade, I know the importance of adequate and clean toilets to the visiting public.

In the gents, and presumably in the ladies, there is just one cubicle for all the hundreds of visitors that may be at the beach on a sunny summer weekend.

How many people would re-visit or recommend a hotel that has good food, great service fantastic views – but inadequate and dirty toilets?

Perhaps an additional toilet block could be built which could be closed during the winter and opened from April to October.

Also, if there is enough money, a member of staff for weekend afternoons to clean and lock the toilets at a sensible time – and not far too early, as happens at present.

SR George,
Llantwit Major

Council and the kissing gates

I WRITE regarding GEM correspondence over recent weeks concerning the 'kissing gates' at either end of the first meadow in Cwm Colhugh.

I was very surprised by Coun Austin's recent letter, in which he said time and effort should have been given to repairing the existing gates or manufacturing replica gates.

Despite being a town councillor, he seems to miss the fact that Llantwit Major Town Council has, for quite a considerable time, been requesting that the access to this footpath be improved.

This was because of numerous requests from local residents and visitors alike complaining that people with pushchairs and wheelchairs were unable to negotiate the 'kissing gates'.

After many requests to improve the access, the Vale Council 'Rights of Way' officer announced in a Town Council Footpaths forum meeting held on July 7 last year, that the kissing gates would be replaced with ones allowing easier access.

While I must agree with Coun Austin's comment regarding the concrete approach which has a step which surely defeats the object of easier access, I am surprised at his observation about a small group of people who give no thought or valid discussion to the replacing of these kissing gates.

Does he mean the town council, of which he is member – as they were the prime movers over the years in getting these gates changed?

Michael Lewis,
Llantwit Major

More local points of view on page 7.

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(UNTIL MAY 14)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	06.19	14.0	18.38	14.0
08 Fri	07.05	14.1	19.19	14.2
09 Sat	07.45	14.1	19.59	14.4
10 Sun	08.17	14.1	20.41	14.2
11 Mon	08.59	14.0	21.17	14.0
12 Tues	09.34	13.9	21.44	13.8
13 Wed	10.08	13.4	22.22	13.4
14 Thur	10.41	13.0	22.57	12.9

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RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
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Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. **Gas** - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

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Vicky's thank you to family and the NHS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Vicky had just finished a probationary period with Dow Corning and was concerned about her job.

"I needn't have worried, as they were very supportive throughout my rehabilitation."

In all, she had to have three major operations and months of physiotherapy.

Vicky's rehabilitation has taken more than two years and involved further treatment and a series of out-patient visits to the University Hospital of Wales, Llandough Hospital, Barry Hospital, Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the Spire Hospital!

"I contacted The GEM because I wanted to thank the nurse and fire officer who stopped for me.

"I wanted to say thank you to Lucy and Bryn of the ambulance service for treating me at the scene and taking care of me.

"To everybody in the Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust who has cared for me in the past two years, you all do a truly wonderful job.

"I am so grateful to my mum and dad, David and Julia, my nan Hilda and sister Natalie ,because of the patience, love and care they have shown me.

"I also want to thank David, my fiance, for loving me – even with the scars!"

A letter dropped through Vicky's letter box a few days ago.

"It was from my consultant. It said I' had fully recovered and was able to go out and do what I wanted to do.

"At last I feel I've got my freedom and life back."

WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THE FUTURE OF BARRY'S DISUSED CADOXTON HOUSE?

LEFT: Should Cadoxton House become a 'one-stop shop' for advice on domestic abuse and substance abuse, along with related services – or a local arts centre with a cinema?

LAST week The GEM reported on the third fire in four years at Cadoxton House.

GEM reader Patricia Ireland, who sent in a dramatic photograph capturing the moment firefighters attempted to tackle the fire underneath the roof, pointed out that it was wrong that such an important public asset was not being used.

She said: "It's value, which must once have been in the hundreds of thousands, has gone up in smoke – literally

"When is the council going to act in respect of this building?"

Another Barry resident contacted The GEM and said: "Why don't the Vale Council consider turning Cadoxton House into a high quality arts centre with a cinema?

"Barry has steadily lost facilities over the years and this would reverse the trend.

"Cadoxton House has an adequate area for parking and its basic structure seems sound.

"It seems wrong that parents in Barry have to ferry their children all the way to Cardiff to see the latest films.

"If it became an arts centre too it could be a valuable resource for local schools."

A council report has suggested it becomes a 'one-stop shop' for advice on domestic abuse and substance abuse, along with related services.

● *What would you like to see happen to this valuable community building? We want to hear your views. Please write to ggem@internet-today.co.uk or to Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.*

Barry couple hope new single will get them a record industry break

A BARRY couple who make up the memorable band name 'The Centre of the Gene Pool' have just released their first single.

Sian Rowlands, the vocalist, and Gareth Hope, a guitarist-writer ,have put their new song 'Thoughts of You' on the internet via iTunes and Amazon MP3.

'Thoughts of You' has a rock sound, but is melodic, and met approval in The GEM's office as something that would not be out of place if it was played on local or national radio.

Sian explained: "The reason that we're marketing the single on the internet is because the digital route seems the way to go.

"We're promoting it through the press, Bro Radio, Nation, Radio Wales, MySpace and Facebook."

Sian pointed out that Lily Allen first came to prominence after she promoted her music using the internet.

Sian and Gareth, who both work in IT, met at work, and have two children, Jacob (7) and Elinor (3). In the past they have performed in clubs and pubs.

The couple have family friend Ryan Sutton to thank for helping to record the single.

Ryan said: "'Thoughts of You' went on iTunes and Amazon MP3 on April 27, and we're looking to do more songs in the future."

Sian added: "A lucky break would certainly be nice!"

ABOVE: Sian Rowlands, the vocalist with The Centre of the Gene Pool, hopes the band's first single will get them a lucky break in the recording industry.

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Choose from chicken, lamb or prawns
Chicken Tikka extra 75p / King Prawns extra £2.50
Korma (N) £4.75
Rogan Josh £4.75
Sag £4.75
Pathia)) £4.75
Dansaak)) £4.75
Bhuna £4.75
Dopiaza £4.75
Madras)) £4.75

BIRYANI
Chicken Biryani £5.75
Lamb Biryani £5.75
Tandoori Chicken Biryani (N) £6.75
Vegetable Biryani (V) £4.75
Maharaja Biryani (N) £7.50
Laziza Biryani £6.95

VEGETARIAN
Balti Vegetables (V) £3.95
Miloni Sabzi Handi (V) £3.95
Subzi Masala (N) (V) £4.50
Subzi Paneer Jalfrezi)) (V) £4.50
Paneer Pasanda (N) (V) £4.50

SIDE DISHES
Sag Peneer (V) £2.25
Aloo-Gobi or Sag-Aloo (V) £2.10
Brinjal or Sag Bhajee (V) £2.10
Mushroom or Bhendi Bhajee (V) £2.10
Zeera Aloo or Chana Masala (V) £2.10
Daal Tarka £2.10
Chips £1.25

RICE & BREADS
Pulao Rice £1.75
Rice £1.55
Mushroom or Speical Pulao £2.20
Keema Pulao £2.20
Plain naan £1.50
Peshwari naan (N) £1.75
Keema naan £1.75
Cheese or Garlic naan £1.75
Tandoori roti £1.25
Paratha £1.90
Chapati .90p

CONDIMENTS
Papadom .45p
Mixed raitha £1.25
Fresh mixed salad £1.25
Chutney or Pickle .60p

DESSERTS & DRINKS
Mango / Pistachio kulfi £1.25
Coconut Supreme £2.50
1.5l Coke / Diet Coke / Evian £1.65
500ml Bottle drinks .95p
Can drinks .70p

) Chilli rating (N) Contains Nuts (V) Vegetarian

Barrivale members chosen to serve for another year

BARRIVALE AGM was held on April 21 when the retiring committee was, once again, re-elected.

The Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Irene Thomas.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 22nd birthday with a glass of wine and birthday cake, and a teams event.

Results: **1st** Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick, and Irene Thomas and Jane Brook 18 IMPs; **2nd** Tommy Moore and Joan Jenkins, and Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones 21 IMPs.

The handicap winners were Celia and Huw Thomas, and Judith Owen and Marjorie Morgan.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

RIGHT: Irene Thomas with Bill Shore Trophy.

Teddy Bears are set for a parachute drop on St Cadoc's Church!

ST CADOC'S church, Cadoxton, Barry is once again holding a sponsored Teddy Bear parachute jump on Sunday, May 24 at 2pm.

Each participating bear will undergo a 'medical' in the state-of-the-art first aid tent prior to their jump, to ensure they are fit to fly.

On safe landing, they will be awarded a well deserved certificate of bravery. All parachutes are provided.

There will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear.

The event will also include a prize draw raffle, and barbecue.

The parishioners of St Cadoc's and St Mary's churches take part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal.

Last year they were able to send 500 gift filled shoeboxes to needy children in Eastern Europe.

For some this would be the only gift received at Christmas time.

As we need to cover transportation charges for this year's appeal, we hope to raise as much money as possible to enable us to reach even more children this Christmas.

All proceeds from the parachute event are in aid of the Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal.

So if you have a bear that would dare, come along and enjoy the fun.

Help us to spread some joy to children living in harsh conditions around the world

Sponsor forms are now available from St Cadoc's church; telephone 01446 749689.

SP

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Do you have the TV volume up higher? Do you struggle to hear conversation if there is background noise? Many sufferers simply associate symptoms with getting older, however this may not necessarily be the case.

VIBRATION WHITE FINGER
Have you used hand held vibratory tools? Do you suffer from loss of grip, numbness, whiteness and tingling in the fingers?

ASBESTOS EXPOSURE
Exposure to asbestos can cause conditions such as Mesothelioma, Asbestosis, Pleural Thickening and Lung Cancer

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All the above conditions could result in a lump sum payment from your ex-employers. You may also be entitled to a weekly benefit from the Department for Work & Pensions.

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FREE ADVICE SESSIONS
Talk with our advisors at a venue near you, listed below.

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Stewart Road, Rhoose, Barry
Monday 11th May 10.00am-12.00noon

CADOXTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
Henry Street, Barry
Monday 11th May 12.30pm-2.30pm

BARRY YMCA HUB
Court Road, Cadoxton, Barry
Monday 11th May 3.00pm-4.30pm

BARRY WEST END CLUB
St. Nicholas Road, Barry
Friday 15th May 3.00pm-4.00pm

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Conductor is honoured at Vale reception

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Audrey Preston, hosted a reception recently in honour of Douglas Baxter, former conductor of Barry Male Voice Choir.

He came to Barry from his former home town of Ipswich in 1962 to join the staff at Bryn Hafren, where he became deputy head.

In 1964, he joined the choir as a chorister, becoming deputy conductor in 1974. On the retirement of Leslie Tusler in 1986, Doug took over the baton and led the choir for 21 years.

His knowledge of German and French proved invaluable during his time as conductor, as on visits away he was able to compere concerts in fluent German and English, and provide expert translation services when the German choirs visited Barry.

Coun Preston said: "I was delighted to recognise and thank Douglas, not only for his dedication to the choir, but his commitment and contribution to the local community over the years."

Coun Audrey Preston, and consort pictured at the presentation in honour of Douglas Baxter. In the background is Gareth Howe, past chairman of Barry Male Voice Choir.

An action-packed programme at the Barry WI

HIGHLIGHT PARK WI

BARRY (Highlight Park) WI is thriving – with 53 members and two more waiting to join.

The programme since Christmas has been varied. In January, we had the 'Binman' to give a talk! February was a games night to raise funds for the WI – what an interesting night and great fun!

March was an Irish night to celebrate St Patrick – a quiz, Irish food, Irish line dance and readings.

In April, we were entertained by the Barry Brass Band.

There is keep fit, a sewing circle, a garden club, and Tuesday afternoon meetings once a month.

Contact the secretary on 01446 410139 for further information about the branch.

Students Moving On to receive certificates at a presentation

STUDENTS from the Moving On programme in the Barry area have received certificates for personal development, confidence building, first aid, food hygiene, health and safety and a range of computer courses.

Sandra Davies, project coordinator, said: "It's fantastic to see so many people achieving qualifications across a wide range of subjects. They've all grown in confidence while doing so, and we hope that by taking advantage of this free course that they feel they've taken positive steps towards a brighter future."

Moving On is delivered by the Vale Council's community enterprise service.

Learners from the Moving On programme who recently attended a special presentation day, where they received certificates of achievement across a range of subjects.

ART CENTRAL FRIENDS TAKE A SEA VOYAGE – OF A SORT!

Adrian Paul Metcalfe with book.

Art Central Friends' fourth event took place on Thursday, April 23 at the Town Hall, Barry.

Members and guests gathered for a guided tour of the current exhibition, 'The Search for Verrazzano's Sea', with the artist Adrian Paul Metcalfe.

It included work in various media, from vibrant abstract oil paintings, silk screen prints and glowing watercolours to handmade artist's books, all inspired by the sea and landscape.

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Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Ghandi ..£7.00
King Prawn Ghandi £11.00
Anarkali *(sweet, sour and hot)*
Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Anarkali £7.00
King Prawn Anarkali £11.00
Maharaja *(with medium sauce)*
Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Maharaja £8.00
King Prawn Maharaja £12.00
Nagraj *(sweet, sour and hot)*
Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Nagraj ...£6.55
King Prawn Nagraj £10.55
Chicken Murghy *(fairly hot)* £6.95
Chicken Rezalla £7.95
Sliced strips of chicken cooked with Rahil's own blend of fresh spices and herbs. A very tasty medium hot dish.
Khushboo Chicken/Lamb £7.95
Barbecued chicken or lamb, lightly spiced with ginger and garlic, served in medium spicy sauce, absolutely delicious.
Hash Jalfrezi £8.95
Specially prepared hot duck curry with sliced green chilli and herbs.

Tatula Lamb £7.95
Sliced pieces of lamb cooked in a spicy sauce made with tamarind.
Chicken or Lamb Barry £7.95
Cooked with an Indian mango pickle.
Lamb Sikandari *(Shank of Lamb)* ..£8.95
Lamb marinated in chef's secret recipe for 48hrs and then cooked in a sauce with chick peas.

TANDOORI SPECIALITIES

Tandoori Chicken £5.55
Half spring chicken, marinated in yoghurt and spices, roasted in a charcoal oven.
Chicken Tikka or Lamb Tikka ..£5.55
Diced chicken or lamb marinated in a selection of spices barbecued in a charcoal oven.
Fish Tikka (Indian) £6.95
Diced fish marinated in a selection of spices barbecued in a charcoal oven.
Tandoori King Prawns £9.55
King prawns delicately spiced and cooked in the clay oven.
Chicken or Lamb Shashlick £6.55
Pieces of marinated chicken or lamb cooked in a clay oven with green peppers, onions and tomatoes.
Mixed Tandoori Grill £8.95
Tandoori chicken, lamb tikka, king prawns, sheek kebab and nan.

CURRY DISHES

Chicken or Lamb Bhuna £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Rogon £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Jalfrezi £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Korai £5.10
Chicken or Lamb Curry £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Madras £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Vindaloo £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Korma £5.55
Chicken or Lamb Dhansak £5.55

BALTI DISHES

Balti Massala Rogon £5.85
Marinated pieces of chicken or lamb tikka, cooked with tomatoes, served in a mild thick sauce.
Balti Chilli Massala £5.80
Marinated pieces of chicken or lamb tikka, cooked in a thick spice sauce and topped with green chillies, onions and green pepper.
Balti Kasmiri £5.80
Pieces of chicken or lamb tikka cooked tamarind, onions and green peppers. A medium hot dish, served in thick spicy sauce.
Balti Minty £5.80
Tenderised pieces of lamb or chicken cooked with yogurt, green herbs and fresh mint.

Mixed Balti £5.80
Pieces of chicken or lamb cooked with butter and cultured yoghurt and garnished with fine onion, tomatoes, capsicum, green herbs and spice.
Balti Mughi or Balti Gosht £5.65
Tandoori chicken tikka cooked butter cultured yoghurt, garnished with fine onion, tomatoes, capsicum, green herbs and spice.
Balti Sag Murghi or Balti Sag Gosht £5.95
Tandoori lamb tikka or chicken tikka cooked with spinach.
Balti Prawn Sag £5.95
Prawn cooked with spinach.
Duck Balti £7.95
Duck balti dish medium hot, with a touch of pickle taste.
Fish Balti £7.95
Fish balti dish medium hot, with a touch of soury taste.
Tropical Mix Balti £7.95
(Chicken, Lamb or Prawn)

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Video of 'brilliant orbs' in the evening sky has a mystery sting in the tail

A COUPLE from Barry are creating an *'X-Files'* stir with a video they shot last month of mysterious lights in the evening sky above Dow Corning.

Steve and Gill Ryan have no explanation for the strange sight they witnessed as they returned home to the town one night from a visit to their daughter who lives in Caerphilly.

GEM readers can see the couple's video online from 1pm this Friday at www.Barry-today.co.uk – and there is a mysterious sting in its tail!

Steve told The GEM: "It was a Wednesday night, just after 8pm, and we were making our way back through Barry.

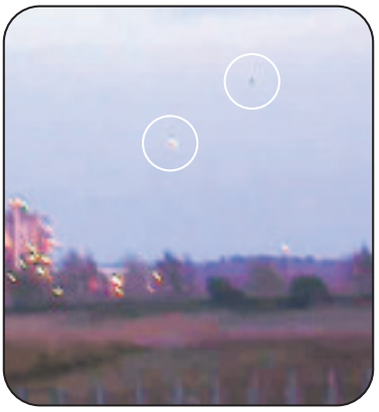
"We got off the Docks Link road, drove past Lidl store and went through Cadoxton.

"As we came to the hill with Victoria Park on your left and the junior school on your right we saw two brilliant lights in the sky – we knew they couldn't be stars, they were far too big.

"We drove down Vere Street and at the bottom turned left and went under Cadoxton railway bridge."

The couple parked on the far side of the roundabout just through the bridge, on Cardiff Road, and saw the two lights in the sky straight ahead (Dow Corning lights can be seen on the video to the left).

Steve said: "The lights were static in the sky, and then moved slowly. I'd describe them as brilliant orbs."



ABOVE:
At one minute 45 seconds in the video black objects appear to be ejected from the ball of light in different directions.

ABOVE:
The two balls of light hover over the evening sky in Barry (Dow Corning is to the left).

Gill quickly got her Samsung mobile phone out to record the sight.

She said: "I put it on maximum zoom and trained it on the lights.

"They definitely were not from an aeroplane or a helicopter. There was no sound and from that distance we would have heard something."

The couple's son Jack, aged five, and granddaughter, Caitlin, aged two, were very excited by the lights, but grandson Kaiden, aged one, slept blissfully through the commotion.

The video lasts about two minutes.

At first the lights are stationary, they then move lower in the sky. One light disappears and then reappears. At one minute 45 seconds into the video a rather strange thing happens: three black objects seem to be shot out from one of the orbs, the first hundreds of feet into the air!

Steve and Gill don't have a rational explanation, and replaying the image on the computers at The GEM hasn't resolved the mystery.

Do you have an explanation? If so email us at ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Sports stars address the Barry Business Club

LEFT:
Barry Business Club members are pictured suited and booted – celebrating taking the club into its 25th year after the recent annual general meeting.

BARRY Business Club held its AGM on Thursday April 16 at The Mount Sorrell Hotel.

Outgoing chairman Dave Wells thanked his committee for their help with his very successful year, which included speakers Mervyn Davies and John Dawes from the rugby world and Nicky Piper, the retired Welsh boxer.

The new chairman Chris Trigg, with vice chairman Mike Hopkins and house chair Lynnette Knight, will be taking the Business Club into its 25th year, which will be celebrated on 12 September with a summer ball at Wenvoe Golf Club.

Barry Business Club meets at the Mount Sorrel hotel every third Thursday of the month and welcomes new members.

For further information, contact Lynette Knight at lynnette@thebusinesscentreonline.co.uk

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Vale volunteers thanked at the Mayor's reception

VOLUNTEERS who run 22 Vale community centres have been commended at a special reception hosted by the Mayor, Coun Audrey Preston.

Coun Preston, who invited guests to the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall in Barry, said: "Without these individuals giving up their time to run the centres, a large range of activities would not take place.

"I'd like to thank them all for the huge contribution they have made during the last year, which I know is much appreciated by local residents."

Volunteers from 11 centres were able to attend the reception, including Llancarfan, Colcot in Barry and lower Penarth.

The Vale Council's community development officer, Siân Vaughan, who co-ordinates the volunteers, said: "They all thoroughly deserve recognition for their tremendous hard work.

"Among the volunteers are a couple of excellent husband and wife teams who have shown how rewarding volunteering can be."

ABOVE: The Vale Mayor, Coun Audrey Preston, hosted a reception to recognise the dedication of volunteers who run the county's community centres.

PTA QUIZ

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School PTA quiz night on Friday (May 8) at 7.30pm, will be held at the Bear Hotel in the ballroom and not at Middle School canteen, as previously reported.

Tickets still available from Caroline (01446 792320) or text 07811 192710; email pta@cowbridgecomprehensiveschoo.co.uk.

CHURCH COFFEE

THE Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry, is holding a coffee morning on Saturday, May 9, between 10am-12noon; admission £1 to include coffee and biscuits in aid of new hall funds.

There will be a cake stall and bric-a-brac stall.

Vale PACT meetings

DINAS POWYS public meeting, Bethesda Hall, May 11, 7pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, leisure centre, May 12, 7pm.

COWBRIDGE coffee and chat meeting, REd Fox, Penllyn, May 13, 10.30am.

ILLTYD PACT public meeting, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, May 14, 7pm.

NEWS FROM 372 BARRY SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

Cadets' annual dining-in night at HMS Cambria

RECENTLY, 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps held their annual dining-in night at *HMS Cambria*.

The evening was the opportunity to formally entertain the guests of the squadron, with all the officers, instructors and cadets attending.

The Cadets and Squadron staff were joined by several guests, including: Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Wing Commander Gareth Chapman (Officer Commanding No 1 Welsh Wing), Mr Doug Provis (a founder Cadet of 372 Squadron in 1941) and Chief Technician Vince Schofield-Downing (Air Cadet Liaison Officer, MOD St Athan).

The Mr Vice on the night was Cadet Eloise Johnson (13), the youngest and newest Cadet on the Squadron.

Eloise's responsibility on the night was to assist the Commanding Officer with the smooth running of the evening and to entertain the guests after dinner.

After dinner, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards gave an entertaining speech to the Cadets and guests on his close liaison with 372 Squadron over the years; and presented the annual NCO of the Year trophy Cadet Sergeant Gemma Lewis, for her hard work and dedication during the last year.

Flight Lieutenant Dave Crandon, was also presented with a plaque in recognition of his 10 years as Commanding Officer 372 Squadron.

ABOVE: Capt Norman Lloyd-Edwards presenting Sgt Gemma Lewis with NCO of the Year award.

The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed the annual dining-in night, learning about the traditions upheld within the Royal Air Force.

Cadet Carl Chaplin said: "At first I really nervous about the evening and its traditions. It was great fun and I can't wait until next year's dining-in night."

The Cadets are now looking forward to an action-packed and challenging training programme including flying, gliding, shooting, sport, hill craft, Duke of Edinburgh and leadership training, in what promises to be another busy and exciting year ahead.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall), or you can contact the Squadron on 01446 747734, or email 372@air-cadets.org

JASON HORTON

Peterston-super-Ely church stages a music marathon

A VALE church is staging a 12-hour 'music marathon' as part of a nationwide Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) 'Music Sunday'.

Although it is called 'Music Sunday' the event is taking place on Saturday (May 9) when St Peter's Church, Peterston-super-Ely, will be echoing to the sound of various styles of music between 9am – 9pm.

Choosing the programme for the day is James Bull, the musical director at St Peter's Church, who told The GEM:

"We have been invited to be one of the 40 churches or schools across the UK to pilot the RSCM 'Music Sunday' this year.

"In each establishment, special events are being held to enable the church or school to place a special focus on music for one weekend in the year."

He continued: "The RSCM is planning to make Music Sunday an annual national event from 2010 onwards.

"Half the money raised will go towards music resources or projects in the church, and the other 50 per cent will go towards educational courses and other events organised by the RSCM."

During the day in St Peter's Church, there will be organ and piano music, and a number of choirs, including the St Donat's Choir, the Peterston Primary School Choir, and St Peter's own choral group.

Ayre Point, an accoustic band, will perform, as will Tony and Jane Morse, and an early music recorder group.

There will be a choral evensong with the Llandaff Cathedral Girl Choristers, and much more throughout the 12 hours.

The RSCM is a charity which supports church music in all its guises throughout the UK and in many other countries and has more than 8,000 members and 600 volunteers.

Refreshments will be available all day, and admission is £5.

THE VALE ROAD WORKS REPORT

Dock View Road junction with Thompson Street, Barry – temporary traffic signals to allow work on adjacent footbridge over the railway line.

B4267 Penlan Road, Llandough – intermittent temporary traffic signals in use (off peak only) this is to allow water mains refurbishment.

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – daytime temporary traffic signals near Boverton Brook to allow new electricity cables to be laid, up to May 8.

Church Street, Cowbridge – closed until Friday, May 8, between 9am-3.30pm, for essential highway maintenance.

CAVMS showcase

CARDIFF and Vale Music Service will showcase young talent at St David's Hall on May 10, at 7pm.

The short concert features ensembles playing jazz and rock to classical music.

The compere, local singer Jeff Hooper, will sing with the Big Band and Orchestra.

Tickets on 02920 878444.

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Jane Hutt AM celebrates with MIND in the Vale

SUPPORTER of MIND in the Vale, Jane Hutt, AM, visited the Ty Newydd Resource Centre in Barry to congratulate the committee, staff and users on their work, at a garden party held to celebrate the contribution and life of Albert Nicholls to the development of the garden.

She said: "With the inspiration of Albert Nicholls, a garden was created at the Ty Newydd Resource Centre

"It was enjoyable to join the garden party and thank MIND for their hard work, inspiration and commitment to improving our mental health services, as well as to celebrate the contribution of Albert Nicholls and his life."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM the committee, staff and users of the MIND in the Vale Ty Newydd Resource Centre.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Gurkhas entitled to our respect...

ALTHOUGH I disagree in general with John Smith MP on a large number of issues, more often than not, I wholly respect his arguments and his right to say them.

However, I feel I had to write to express my disappointment that Mr Smith voted with the government, against the Gurkha soldiers' UK settlement rights in the House of Commons last week.

I believe that this is a non-party issue, as demonstrated by the large number of Labour MPs who voted for the motion.

Surely, there is only one point of principle here; Gurkhas have laid down their lives or been prepared to do so for the sake of our country since 1815.

It is our obligation to treat them with the same respect that they have afforded us.

With hundreds of thousands of immigrants received into the UK annually, the additional numbers required to give the Gurkhas settlement rights would be a tiny fraction.

Alun Cairns AM (Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Vale)

Teachers with more jewellery than Mr T

I read in The GEM on Thursday, April 30, an article headed 'Teachers accused of double standards on dress code'.

In our ever-changing society, obviously nothing has changed... From 1978-1985, I attended a standard comprehensive school in Bridgend.

The uniform was a white shirt and tie in the school's colours, a grey cardigan/jumper and a tunic, grey or white socks, no patterns, 'school' shoes-black.

Boys wore grey trousers; the sixth year wore the shirt and tie, with black jumper/cardigan and black skirt/trousers.

No make-up. Plain studs for pierced ears; one for boys, two for girls.

All long hair was fastened back. Rule breakers were sent home to amend their condition, if they couldn't be tidied up at school. My friend was sent home when she dyed her hair orange.

Some of our teachers wore 'appropriate' clothes. Many opted for very clingy, low-cut, see-through or 'loud' clothes with bright, clashing colour schemes.

One teacher favoured spangles and always looked ready to go night-clubbing.

Several wore enough make-up for the stage and more jewellery than 'Mr T' of *A-Team* fame.

In the sunlight we were quite dazzled...

But we survived and those with stable family lives have gone on to have successful, happy lives.

I think we are all in danger of seeing the past through rose-tinted spectacles.

Forget the 'good old days' - just enjoy the present!

S Cornick, Eglwys Brewis

MP'S ANNUAL 'REPORT' WAS SELF PRAISE

HAVING read the four-page 20th anniversary report by Mr John Smith MP that wrapped The GEM on April 23, my immediate reaction was that it was purely self-assessed, and as a boy I was always told by my teachers that self-praise is no praise at all.

On page four of the report, he addresses a letter to his constituents, the content of which, as far as I am concerned, is completely ambiguous.

While some of his efforts contained in the report are to be commended, Mr Smith wildly exaggerates the facts.

I have no doubt that if every MP were to report to their constituents on every anniversary of their election they could also suggest how good they are, so what was the point in advising the public of his efforts as a Member of Parliament?

Does he seriously suggest that he has personally written to tens of thousands of young people, or is it one letter photocopied for all, thus taking the personal touch out of it?

I am not sure what tens of thousands mean. Does it mean as many as 20,000? If so that is almost three letters written each day for 20 years! I can only ask when is he going to write to me?

What disappointed me about his report was that it was all allegedly positive. However, he was careful not to mention that he voted against giving the 306 First World War British soldiers who were executed allegedly for desertion and/or cowardice, a full pardon, even though a large number of them were suffering from shell-shock and not responsible for their actions.

Although his 20-year publication came before the recent Gurkha debate, it is pertinent to point out that Mr Smith voted with the Government, thus denying those brave Gurkhas, who have fought for and served this country with distinction, the right to live here. Fortunately, the Government was defeated in this vote.

Mr Smith desires the construction of the Defence Academy, for employment, but really it will be a training base used in the art of killing other humans.

I have asked Mr Smith via his constituency office at Barry if the cost of the 20-year anniversary report was paid out of public funds. I am still waiting for an answer.

FMD Knill, Pendoylan

Thank you to Gerald

I write concerning last week's GEM story about the refurbishment of the staircase to the tower in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.

That refurbishment was made possible by the initial bequest of £5,000 from the late Lieutenant Commander Gerald Pigeon RN (ret'd).

Bellringers at St Illtud's will always be aware of this most generous gift.

Once more they can feel safe.

Bill Price (Bellringer)

Fighting for the community

I WOULD like to respond to Liz Hayes' impassioned plea in The GEM on April 30 for shop spaces to be made available in Llantwit for community projects.

This is exactly what the transition initiative wants to see and we can only give our wholehearted support to Liz and the groups she talks about, the craftspeople and the growers.

I sincerely hope that Llantwit and Cowbridge support these skills and will find the opportunity to pass them down the generations; so that we can build some resilience in our communities in the face of the challenges ahead – that come from climate change and our descent from peak oil.

I would urge your readers to contact the Llantwit Transition movement for more details at *transition.llantwit@googlemail.com*

Rob McGhee, Cowbridge

Please breathe some new life into Cadoxton House

I LIVE near Cadoxton House, and wanted to write in response to the piece in last week's GEM concerning the recent fire there.

As depressing as it was to see the building burning yet again, the fire was entirely predictable and almost certainly preventable.

I'd echo the views of local people expressed in The GEM that the council's abandonment of Cadoxton House in 2005 – and the state it has since been allowed to fall into – has been utterly shameful!

The fact that it is now associated with so many problems is hardly surprising and these will continue until the building is restored to a decent condition and taken back into regular use.

I've written to council officials a number of times, askeing what plans there may be for the site, and have repeatedly pointed out that the only people finding a use for the building and grounds these days seem to be vandals, fly-tippers and arsonists.

Perhaps now, at last, something positive may be done.

Cadoxton House was originally bequeathed to the council to be used by the local community, and until a few years ago it did this brilliantly as a popular and lively arts centre.

The centre provided a range of activities for adults and young people, and its closure was a great loss.

Early proposals to reopen the building as an arts centre were unsuccessful, though

The GEM article notes that plans are now being taken forward to redevelop the site as a multi-agency 'one-stop shop', providing advice and support to people experiencing domestic violence or problems with drugs or alcohol.

This is an exciting proposal, and one which could see Cadoxton House transformed from its current state of burned-out dilapidation into an important new service, restoring the whole area and bringing benefits to the community.

Other people will have their own opinions as to what it should be used for, but the community is anxious that something positive happens to it.

Let us hope that this can be done without further delay.

Carl Chapple, Cadoxton

Vale MP backs campaign to allow the Gurkha soldiers to settle in UK

VALE MP, Mr John Smith, was one of 75 MPs who signed a parliamentary Early Day Motion calling on the Government to bring forward a new ruling on the rights of former Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK.

The motion described guidelines announced by the Home Office as morally wrong and offensive to former Gurkha soldiers.

The MP said that Gurkhas have been campaigning for equal treatment with other Commonwealth soldiers who are entitled to settle in the UK at the end of their period of service.

Currently, only Gurkhas discharged from the British Army after 1997 are entitled to settlement rights. They also receive substantially less in wages and pensions than soldiers in other British regiments.

Mr Smith, who is a member of an all-Party parliamentary group on Gurkha rights, and sits on the Commons' Defence Select Committee commented: "This is a matter of principle. I believe that the Government's new guidelines have severely let down the Gurkhas.

"The Gurkhas are known as 'the bravest of the brave', serving in some of the most dangerous conflicts in the world on behalf of the country.

"Treating these brave soldiers as second class servicemen is fundamentally wrong. We owe them a tremendous debt and they must be given equal and fair treatment.

"I, and the other members of the all-party parliamentary group on Gurkha rights, will continue to raise the issue of equal rights for all Gurkhas in Parliament," he vowed.

LEFT:
John Smith MP with a delegation of Gurkha soldiers and Labour MPs supporting their campaign.

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'UNDULATING' WALK LOOKS AT THE FASCINATING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF THE CYNON VALLEY

RECENTLY, 12 ramblers joined leader Geraint Thomas and his trusty sheepdog Patch on a trip up to the Cynon Valley.

They started from Abercynon, which lies around 15 miles north of Cardiff at the confluence of the Rivers Taff and Cynon.

Abercynon made history as it was the terminus for the world's first steam railway journey on February 21, 1804, when the inventor Richard Trevithick drove a steam locomotive hauling iron and passengers from the Penydarren ironworks at Merthyr Tydfil to the basin of the Glamorganshire canal at Abercynon.

Abercynon was also famous as it had two railway stations, one on the Cardiff to Aberdare line and the other on the Cardiff to Merthyr Tydfil line. The former was shut down in 2008 and now only one station serves the community.

Another interesting fact is that the Thorn Hotel in Aberdare was used by Welsh singer Tom Jones to practise before he became famous.

Taking the footbridge over the railway line, they began to climb the steep-sided valley past the cemetery and into a wood.

The use of the word 'up' was totally banned, as was taking breathers along the climb, a new word of 'undulating' made the climbing part seem much easier!

Crossing to the next valley, the group came across an isolated farmhouse with an unusual tybach (or small house - meaning toilet).

The wooden plank seat had not one, but two holes with no dividing partitions – so in fact, two users could chat at the same time, or read the same newspaper before putting it to its final use.

Needless to say, the group definitely decided not to use this particular facility!

Going downhill once more, they reached the Nant Clydach River, a small tributary of the major River Taff, but following beside the gurgling waters along the narrow, wooded valley was definitely the highlight of the walk.

Then it was time to think about climbing once more. Having crossed the river, a track led uphill beside forestry and woodland to the top of the valley where the group were rewarded with superb open views of the surrounding countryside.

After undulating for a while, the group took their final downhill walk to return once more to Abercynon for the welcome journey back home.

On May 9, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 12-mile mod/hard walk from Penmaen through garlic covered woods on south Gower; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On May 10, the Maesteg Ramblers are hosting the Area Walks, meeting at Tesco's, Castle Street, Maesteg from 9am, for a choice of three walks, 16, 10 and 5-miles in length.

The mid-week walk on May 12 will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am for an 8-mile moderate walk at Newton and Merthyr Mawr; contact John/Gerard on 029 2070 2565/029 2070 8248.

On May 14, the start of the popular summer evening walks, meet at 7pm at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry for a 4-mile easy/mod walk at Porthkerry; contact Val on 01446 734925.

Wear suitable clothing preferably boots, carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Latest news from the Fonmon Apiary

APRIL, with its full complement of showers, has come and gone, and all the hives are looking well.

The rain, along with reasonable temperatures, produced an abundance of forage. Dominant of course is the oilseed rape – the bright yellow fields stand out well. This is a nectar source much-loved by the bees, all else takes second place.

Here in the orchard, much apple blossom is appearing which some bees are working. However, until the rape has gone over it will play a lesser role. All of the queens have stepped up their egg laying, and the population of the hives is expanding apace.

This month is considered to be the start of the swarming season, so I must keep a close eye on things if I hope to control it.

Along with the expansion of the bee population, the Varroa Mite population will also expand as their breeding cycle is in step with that of the bees. Trying to keep their numbers down is a never-ending battle.

All the hives have a fine mesh floor, which allows debris and dead mites to fall through into a drawer below.

On a weekly basis, I collect this debris in numbered containers. Each container is decanted into a white enamel dish and with the aid of a large table mounted magnifying glass, I sift through it and count the mites. The numbers can be quite alarming.

All in all things are looking good.

Later this month, Cardiff and the Vale Beekeepers Society will be assisting in the establishing of two hives within the grounds of Dyffryn Gardens.

Information on the progress of the hives will be made available to persons visiting the gardens if they wish it.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

SAITH'S FIRST FOAL IS SOMETHING MAGICAL!

THE Vale-based Saith Stud had its first foal of the year, and it turned out to be a Cremello... blue eyes with pink skin and creamy white body.

ABOVE: Saith Magical Angelica.

Heather Davies and Steve Randall bought a palomino mare a few years ago, and were hoping to breed a palomino with the Saith prefix on it, using a local stallion, Janton Pheonix, from Barry.

Heather has a "soft spot" for palominos and was "slightly shocked" when a cremello filly popped out on May 1.

"Saith Magical Angelica has a special quality about her," said Heather.

Welsh horse racing scandals

ON AND OFF THE TURF with BRIAN LEE

GEM columnist Brian Lee is researching a book about Welsh horse racing scandals and gambles, and would like to hear from readers who may be able to help him with his research.

Brian (72), who has been covering the Welsh horse racing scene in the local and national press for more than 40 years, said: "Some of the stories I will be including in the book are the infamous ringer scandals, such as the 1953 Francasal and Santa Amaro fiasco, which involved Cardiff's Gomer Charles, a well respected bookmaker until he got involved in the scandal.

"He was shot dead outside his Park Place home in 1966," said Brian, who remembers: "finishing my night-shift on the Western Mail and on my way home in the early hours of the morning, seeing a policeman standing outside Mr Charles's house."

Another ringer scandal Brian will be including will be the In The Money-Cobblers March story, which resulted in Crickhowell's John Bowles being warned off for 20 years, one of the Jockey Club's stiffest sentences ever.

Another story Brian will be telling is the 1927 Tenby Races Oyster Maid race fix which, according to National Hunt jockey turned author Dick Francis, was "probably the biggest and most bitterly-resented betting coup National Hunt racing has ever known."

Brian said: "It has been suggested that the gambling coup, which was said to have cost the bookmakers between £60,000 and £70,000, was organised by officials, trainers and others to help race secretary George Lort Stokes, town clerk of Tenby, who had fallen on hard times."

Brian would also like to hear of other betting scandals and gambles that have taken place at point-to-points, pony racing and flapping (unlicensed) horse race meetings, and would welcome any press cuttings, photos and anything else that would help him in his research

He can be e-mailed at leebrian@btinternet.com or telephone 02920736438 or write to 13 Felbrigg Crescent, Pontprennau,Cardiff,CF2 3 8SE.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 564.

● **£2000:** 459363. ● **£500:** 195255. ● **£100:** 225652. ● **£50:** 186502. ● **£10:** 647859, 428691, 768372, 217861, 509049, 538382, 116636, 716290, 843632, 143648, 828300, 638529, 531966, 122931, 510368, 163505, 752955, 661834, 198205, 503158. ● **£5:** 849579, 886502, 374400, 856413, 165122, 777467, 665815, 436321, 410650, 858087, 489508, 617001, 462308, 753965, 158641, 169624, 802430, 674198, 197024, 263331, 652376, 315594, 545606, 107442, 387497, 105086, 617228, 117829, 292420, 890693.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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Barry police cells closure leads to loss of volunteers

THE Vale Council has been briefed about the repercussions of closing the police custody cells in Barry – and these include a bigger bill for council tax-payers.

Although the council, along with officers from Barry Magistrates Court, had objected to the closure, it had gone ahead, with any arrests in Barry now being processed in Cardiff Bay.

A council report said that South Wales Police had not undertaken any consultation with partners with regard to the closure, even though it will affect the work of the council, the Probation Service and Barry Magistrates Court.

One immediate consequence is that the Vale Council Youth Offending Service (YOS), which has to ensure that an adult is present when a young person is arrested, is going to run short of volunteers.

The volunteers are known as 'appropriate adults' and accompany young people who have been arrested to ensure that the young person's interests are represented and their rights protected.

It is the law that all children need an adult to be present during police interviews. As a result, the YOS had eight appropriate adult volunteers who could attend Barry Police Station within 20 minutes of a call out being requested, and the Youth Offending Service paid travelling expenses to volunteers.

The new custody suite in Cardiff Bay means that it could take up to 45 minutes or longer for some volunteers to attend. The Vale Council has been advised that it was likely that some volunteers would resign when the custody suite in Barry was closed. If that proves to be the case, then paid YOS staff will have to fill the gap, with the Vale Council having to foot the bill for overtime and travel costs. The Vale Council is protesting, and has forwarded an 'impact assessment' to South Wales Police, in an attempt to head off the closure.

However, at a recent meeting of the Community Liaison Committee, Chief Superintendent Dando, who will take over the new combined Vale and Bridgend Division, held out little hope of a reprieve.

He said that it was a necessary measure by South Wales Police, in order to achieve savings and balance the budget for 2009/10.

He said that it was his personal responsibility to look at issues relating to the closure of custody suites, and he would do everything to ensure that the Vale would not suffer.

The Vale Council cabinet has now resolved that the Leader be authorised to write to the First Minister in respect of the council's objections and in support of a bid by South Wales Police for an additional settlement, "to ensure that service provision within the Vale would not be adversely affected".

PHILIP IRWIN

PETITION PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY

'No, to airport road in Wenvoe' say villagers

VILLAGERS from Wenvoe followed up their meeting in the community centre on April 7 against an airport access road by visiting the National Assembly with a petition.

They were met by Vale AM Jane Hutt and the chair of the petitions committee, Val Lloyd AM.

Ms Hutt said: "I was pleased to be able to greet the villagers from Wenvoe, I have been representing as their Assembly Member.

"I know that the petitions committee will now give serious consideration to the petition, before making a report to the Transport Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM."

Conservative AM Alun Cairns said it was time the Minister put people out of their misery and let them know what was plannned.

"The Assembly government's delay is causing uncertainty to so many communities. He needs to make a statement on his intentions.

"With funding so tight and likely to get much tighter, whoever wins the general election, I would suspect it will be difficult for him to commit to any route.

" If this is the case, then he needs to say so.

"I have tabled Assembly Questions asking him to explain the reasons for delay and to advise when he expects to make a statement on his preferred option."

Mr Cairns added: "We were first promised a statement in January and then early spring.

"We are now approaching summer and are no wiser as to his intentions.

"It is wholly unfair to leave so many communities just hanging in the way he is."

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM and petitions committee chairperson Val Lloyd AM, greet the group of residents from Wenvoe who took their petition to the Assembly.

Fayre bargains

THE annual spring fayre takes place at St Pauls Hall, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, on Saturday, May 9, at 2pm.

Stalls include cakes, home produce, books, CDs, gifts and cards, bottle stall and bric-a-brac. Admission is 50p (children admitted free).

Proceeds are in aid of the continuing work of St Pauls and Merthyr Dyfan churches.

Floral society

ON May 12, Barry Floral Society meets at St Nicholas Hall, Barry, for a demonstration by Mrs J Beard of Cinderford, entitled 'What's Next?' at 2.15pm. New members welcome.

ENTRIES SOUGHT FOR VALE BEST KEPT VILLAGE AWARDS

THIS year's Vale Best Kept Village Competition (BKV) is now well under way, and some working parties have been seen, busily preparing their communities by sprucing up their areas to ensure all will be up to scratch during the judging period at the end of June.

Additionally, schools, playgroups and other junior organisations are sending in a record number of applications, with some interesting projects.

Due to the financial support of our main sponsors Cemex (UK) Ltd, and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, prize money is over £2,000.

There are awards of cups, certificates and the coveted D C Jones Cup, plus a plaque to be displayed on the village green.

It is customary to hold the annual dinner in the hall of the previous year's winners. Unfortunately, that of Llanmaes is felt to be too small to host the number attending.

Instead, the Community Council have suggested it be held in the village pub – the Blacksmith's Arms. The chairman and secretary have inspected it and feel it will be quite suitable.

With so many pubs closing weekly, it seemed most appropriate to support the local hostelry. The village pub is often at the heart of a community where inhabitants commune and spirits are both raised and consumed!

If you have not yet entered, contact the secretary, Mr Richard Skinner, on 01445 774820.

If you do not wish to enter the whole village, why not enter the 'Special Feature', for a smaller area that you may have improved or enhanced.

BASIL WATKINS

PICTURED* ABOVE, *left to right: Mr Tim Fowler, BKV committee member, Mrs Christine Robinson, landlady of the Blacksmiths Arms (in Llanmaes), Col Basil Watkins, chairman of the Best Kept Village committee, and Mr Richard Skinner, secretary of the BKV committee.

Older People's champion calls in on Penarth scheme

RUTH MARKS, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, marked the first anniversary of the role this month by visiting the luncheon club organised by the Live At Home scheme in Trinity Church, Penarth.

She said that she chose to visit the Live At Home scheme so that "older people could be a part of the celebrations – and also to get their views across. Listening to older people is very important".

OPPOSITE:
In the photograph are (left to right) Maureen Edwards, Ruth Marks, Dorothy Gardener, and May Winibush.

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Llancadle farmer Dave lifts the 'Walker Cup'

A WELL-DESERVED day off following an extended lambing season proved a good investment for Llancadle farmer David Williams.

Last Thursday, he returned home with the much sought-after 'Walker Cup' after scoring 34 stableford points.

He competed with 46 other competitors and won the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society at Creigiau Golf Club, kindly sponsored by Cowbridge solicitors Gaskell & Walker.

Julian Kelly, with 32 points and a superior back nine, finished second just ahead of Godfrey Lewis.

Trevor Wooding, who finished fourth with 30 points was also successful in winning one of the many quality prizes supplied by the sponsors when nearest the pin on the one of the par three holes.

Llyn Thomas, sponsors' representative Tosh Taylor, and guest Tom Rhodes were also successful on the other par three holes.

Neil Boobyer took the honours in the guest section with 32 points, just one point ahead of Tosh's son David, who scored 31.

The 'James the Butchers' sponsored longest drive competition was won by immediate past captain John Caines, while guest Rhydian Harris continued his winning ways.

He correctly guessed the number of balls that would come to rest on this immaculate parkland course to win the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey, resulting in £72 being raised for the Heronsbridge Special School at Bridgend.

A word of praise for the catering staff at Creigiau Golf Club led by Lisa who, despite a long interruption to the electrical supply, served up an excellent meal which was appreciated by all the competitors.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for May 28, at Coed y Mwstyr Golf Club, when members will have the opportunity of winning the Shreival Trophy, sponsored by Mr Islwyn Rees.

The draw for the first round of the Nipper Jewell Memorial Knock-out competition has thrown up some interesting games – none more so than David Harris having to play his business partner, Julian Kelly.

President Geraint Davies faces a tough match against a previous winner of the trophy Trevor Wooding.

Griff Morgan also faces a daunting task in taking on Aubrey Bowen at Cottrell Park.

T McC

ABOVE: David and Tosh Taylor, David Williams, and captain Ray Howells.

Assembly funds 'bonanza' for Barry College welcomed

ASSEMBLY Education Minister, Jane Hutt, has welcomed an extra £8.93million for further education institutions (FEIs) and sixth forms in Wales announced by her deputy .

"As part of this announcement, Barry College has received a £100k uplift. Across Wales, the investment will create at least a further 2,500 places for students at a time when more young people and adults are looking for training places," the Vale AM stated.

The figures include £3.65m for FEIs and sixth forms in south-west Wales and £3.54m for south-east Wales.

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM is pictured during a visit to Barry College with the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM (third from left), college principal, Paul Halstead, and chair, Peter Cope; together with local business leaders John Buxton, of the Cambrian Group, Richard Arnold, of the Really Welsh Company, and Bob Lane, of Roperhurst Specialist Plastic & Environmental Engineering.

SWIMMERS RISE TO CHALLENGE

Barry leisure centre has taken part in Swimathon 2009 – the world's biggest fundraising swim.

By completing a challenge up to 5k, the Vale-based swimmers joined thousands of swimmers at more than 500 pools nationwide who were raising much-needed funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and The Swimathon Foundation.

The Swimathon is now in its 23rd year and almost half a million people have taken part, raising more than £30 million for charity.

Jeary family's 'thank-you' trek for Penarth hospice

STEPHEN JEARY'S mother, Marjorie, sadly passed away at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth on February 24.

He, his wife Juliet and two sons, Ollie and Peter, remained at her side from the day she was admitted on February 6.

Stephen recalled: "All the staff were wonderful to her and to us throughout her time at the hospice. Juliet, my sons and I remained in mum's room throughout her final days.

"Ollie and Peter slept each night in the relatives' flat. We were provided with food and numerous cups of tea and coffee but, more importantly, the caring staff provided the emotional support we needed at such a difficult time.

"We felt we could not thank them enough but then we saw flyers advertising a trek to Mount Sinai on behalf of the hospice." Stephen explained.

ABOVE: Juliet and Stephen Jeary.

Shortly before his mum passed away, Juliet, Ollie and Peter agreed that they would try to pay back some of the care and support they had all received by taking part in the trek to raise much-needed funds for the hospice in her memory.

Each has agreed to raise a minimum sponsorship of £2,300, which will go directly to the hospice in Penarth.

Juliet and Stephen are both barristers practising from Temple Chambers in Cardiff, and the chambers have agreed to assist them by auctioning items at its summer party in June 2009.

Ollie works for SWALEC in Cardiff which is extremely supportive and he hosts a show on Radio Cardiff each Saturday.

It also supports 'Team Jeary' and hopes to speak to Ollie from the summit of Mount Sinai if that is technically possible!

Peter works for a restaurant in London which has also indicated its support for the trek.

Other sponsors to date include: 7Side Ltd; Destination Skin; Blu Hair Design and Everyman Theatre. They also hope the Cardiff City Team, the Welsh rugby team and Welsh soprano, Rebecca Evans, among others, will be supporting them in raising funds for the hospice.

They are all now in strict training for the event. Anyone who would like to join in the Mount Sinai Trek telephone 02920 426068 or email claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk for more information or to support Team Jeary go to www.justgiving.com/team-jeary.

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PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Tips to help you get a new Outlook on computer life!

IF you use Microsoft software, you could have both Outlook and Outlook Express on your computer.

They sound as though they are different versions of the same programme, with the 'Express' version being a cut-down version of Outlook, using only the e-mail element of it.

Not so.

In fact, they come from two different divisions of Microsoft. Outlook Express is provided free with Internet Explorer and is confined to e-mail and a few frills, such as access to Newsgroups and some e-mail stationary designs. It has a single address book to manage contacts.

Outlook is a paid-for application that comes as a stand-alone programme or as part of Microsoft Office suite, and has features to handle organising and scheduling tasks.

Steve knows the differences and explained them to members of Penarth Computer Club, so that they could decide which application better suited them.

Outlook Express has been designed for home users. They generally need only the e-mail and are content with that. E-mails (perhaps from several accounts) are downloaded from the service provider's computer onto the home computer and are stored there.

All archiving and backing up are part of the home users housekeeping.

The single address list can handle contacts sufficiently well for their needs by allowing groups to be set up. Outlook Express can deal with all that as well as allowing in-box rules to help manage and organise e-mails.

Those with more complicated lives need other services that are available in Outlook – which was designed for use by company networks.

Nowadays, there are families that have computers used by more than one person or have several computers used by different family members, and have them networked just like a small company.

Outlook could be the answer. It can do far more. It is a personal information manager <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_information_manager> . All the e-mail stuff is there, of course. It also has available a Calendar *<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calendaring_software> , Task Manager <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_management#Software_applications> , Contact Manager <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contact_management> , note taking <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Note_taking> , a journal <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal> and web browsing.*

It allows sharing of mailboxes and calendars, and meeting time allocation and more. There are also many third party add-on applications that integrate Outlook with devices and other software (BlackBerry *<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BlackBerry>* mobile phones and Skype *<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skype>* internet communication software for example.)

Steve then wandered around the Outlook screen to show how families could share a calendar to coordinate school outings; football practice; piano lessons or scouting activities - colour-coded to indicate participants or type of activity. The scheduling helps to avoid double-bookings or clashes between arrangements.

Each family member can have an independent address book and contacts folder. If needed, Dad can track his job list in his Tasks Folder and note his progress through the various stages. On the other hand, Mum might find the facility to put up the electronic equivalent of sticky paper notes comes in handy – Sorry, Dad!

Perhaps the most used feature would be to automate the dumping of junk mail and archiving of old e-mails to prevent the computer becoming clogged.

On the subject of e-mails (again), it is possible to arrange for a copy to be left on the provider's computer for access through the web. That would mean that you could access your account from any on-line computer, wherever you might be.

Outlook appears to do Newsgroups as well, but opens an Outlook Express window to do so!

Penarth Computer Club next meets on May 12 at 7.30pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Kevin will be looking at System Restore and finding or un-deleting files Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information, telephone Howard on 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND (Chairman)

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

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IF nothing in our advert *(below)* catches your attention, remember, at the Vale Volunteer Bureau, we have hundreds of other opportunities available now – and we guarantee to find something to suit you.

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Most organisations re-imburse out of pocket expenses which can cover travel and lunch. For those in receipt of welfare benefits, volunteering is also available to you.

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HAPPY TALK FROM PAs BODES WELL FOR PROFESSIONAL PROSPECTS

RESEARCH by Pitman Training, the UK's largest network of specialist IT and secretarial training centres, has shown that the majority of professional office secretaries and personal assistants are happy in their jobs.

In a survey undertaken by Pitman Training, 75 per cent of respondents said that they were planning to stay in the same job in 2009.

When asked if their job was all they hoped it would be, more than 50 per cent said "Yes, it's just as I thought and I'm glad about that."

An additional 30 per cent said their job was actually *BETTER* than they thought it was going to be.

"The fact that 80 per cent of the people that Pitman Training surveyed are happy in their jobs is a great accolade for our profession," explained Linda Barton, chairman of the Institute of Qualified Professional Secretaries. "As secretaries and PAs become better qualified and take on more responsibility, the role that they play within their respective organisations gains ever more respect.

"Professional assistants have a significant impact on the success of their boss and the wider business, so it is gratifying to find out that so many are happy in their work."

Leanne Waring is centre manager of Pitman Training in Cardiff. She said:

"Our training method is designed to be the most flexible and thorough on the market so that professional PAs and secretaries can fit in their personal and professional development with existing work commitments.

"Achieving a recognised and useful qualification is an important element of being a really successful PA."

To find out more about the flexible training packages that Pitman Training Cardiff can offer, please call Leanne Waring or Sarah Pratley on 029 2034 2020, or visit www.pitmancardiff.com.

Plan your career with the help of Careers Wales

WITH the economic downturn, thinking about your career can be a daunting prospect. Yet in these challenging times, career planning becomes more important than ever.

Whether you're in a job, facing redundancy or unemployed, careful planning will help you make the most of any opportunities that are available.

Even in a downturn, it's not all doom and gloom. New opportunities arise, but it's important to be pro-active.

Put time and effort into your career planning to maximise your chances when you apply for jobs.

Careers Wales is advising anyone who might be worried about job security to think about training and learning opportunities.

Take some time to update your CV; look for any gaps in your training and think about how you can back up your work experience with qualifications.

Free impartial information and advice about careers, courses and training is available, whatever your age or situation.

You can get details about qualifications, opportunities to retrain, self employment, help with your CV, job application or interview technique.

Whatever information or advice you need, advisers are available to help you plan your next step.

They will also be able to tell you about sources of funding, including Individual Learning Accounts Wales: you may be able to claim up to £200 towards the cost of training – depending on your circumstances.

If you're under notice of redundancy, advisers can also tell you about ReAct funding, which may be available to help you retrain.

Call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline on 0800 100 900 (or 029 2090 6801 if calling from a mobile) for further information.

Lines are open between 9am-9pm Monday-Friday and 9am-12noon on Saturday. Advisers can also put you in touch with your local careers centre if you wish to make an appointment.

With a positive and planned approach, as well as seeking support, you can help protect your future career prospects.

Island traders have to wait for that bumper bank holiday

CHANGEABLE weather and perhaps the news that trains would not be running over the weekend, meant it wasn't quite the bumper bank holiday Barry Island traders had hoped for.

A steady stream of day trippers made the journey across to the Island by car but not in the large numbers that the Island has sometimes seen.

Gary Harris, the manager of Finnegan's Inn, said: "It was the worst Sunday we've seen this year.

"I think the publicity that the trains were not running didn't help, because some people thought it would be too congested on the roads with the buses that were being laid on."

Gary said that for the good of trade on the Island, a second traffic route had to be arranged by the council.

Over the bank holiday, the Vale Council did open up a new temporary car park on the headland to accommodate extra traffic caused by the lack of a train service.

Paul Haley, the chairman of Pride in Barry, welcomed the council's actions and said: " I hope that this use of the former holiday camp site will be available throughout all the anticipated bumper domestic holiday season.

"We should never close roads to Barry Island and turn visitors away, when we have overflow car parking spaces such as this.

"There is also further unused land at the Waterfront, which could be used to maximise the potential economic benefits brought by visitors to Barry Island.

"This is a good example of everyone working together to make things happen, which is being encouraged by Pride In Barry."

Network Rail's weekend maintenance work should come to an end in time for the Whitsun bank holiday, when traders will hope for a return to large numbers of visitors.

Romilly pupils' art work goes on show in Penarth gallery

WITH the help of teachers Fiona Rodgers and Jane Mullane, and artists Jean Francis and David Button, pupils at Romilly School have created a stunning exhibition, now on display at the Washington Gallery, Penarth.

Vale AM, Jane Hutt, recently visited the Barry school to see the artists working with the children to create a collage, using paint, acrylic, cardboard – and their imaginations.

Ms Hutt said: "This display of Romilly school pupils' work is a 'triumph' at Washington Gallery. The children have undertaken research in their community at Barry to create stories of people's lives.

"Collages and paintings of the Barry seashore and beaches provide a familiar backdrop to this great exhibition. The children will be visiting the gallery, taking the train via Grangetown from Barry to Penarth."

There is also an exhibition by the two artists 'A Year of Walking Before the Window', who have included the Romilly school display in their portfolios of work on display.

Jane Hutt AM with artist Jean Francis.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

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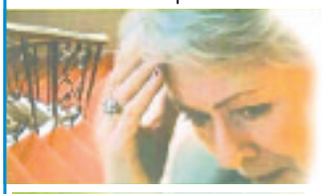

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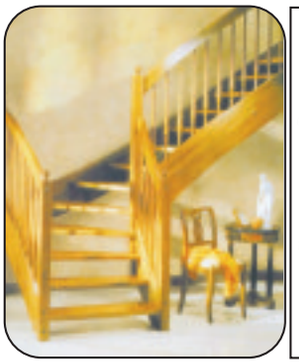

LEFT: An example of the work of GS Joinery. Contact them on 01446 421112.

Riverford has announced its latest 'veg hero' – rhubarb!

GET back to basics, says Riverford Organic Vegetables, and eat the great British veg that thrives in this country.

The award-winning farm has launched a campaign to champion the 'unsung heroes' of the vegetable world, giving a boost to vegetables that are unusual, underrated, tricky to use, or hard to get hold of.

Now is the time to rekindle an affection for rhubarb. Despite being widely used in desserts, rhubarb is actually a vegetable; it's a member of the polygonaceae family and related to sorrel.

It was popular through most of the 1900s, but suffered along with many other of Britain's home-grown, traditional vegetables as supermarkets began to sell out-of-season fruit from around the world.

Rhubarb is easy to grow in Britain as it enjoys cool climates and suffers very few pests. It also packs a flavoursome punch at the table.

"If you want traditional, seasonal produce you can't beat rhubarb at this time of year," said Chris Moruzzi, who delivers Riverford boxes in the Port Talbot, Bridgend and Vale areas.

"Try a simple crumble served with plenty of custard – and later in the season, throw in a few handfuls of strawberries too. Or make the most of its vibrant colour by swirling stewed rhubarb through creamy yoghurt for a super-quick dessert.

"Rhubarb's sharpness also works beautifully with meat and fish, so there's no need to confine it to pudding. It stores well and will keep in the fridge for a week or more."

Riverford, the nation's favourite vegbox scheme, grows over 100 varieties of good value, seasonal produce on its farms around the UK. For more tips on growing and cooking with the seasons, see the Riverford Farm Cook Book, published by Fourth Estate.

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In Business Update

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DEBT relief consultancy is part of the role of Black Bull Holdings group, based in Grantham.

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Learn to protect your business, thanks to Vale Women's Business Network

OUR event on May 20 will explain all you need to know about identity fraud, copyright, patents and intellectual property rights. Don't let someone steal your business!

This event will be held in the beautiful surroundings of Dyffryn Gardens, set in the heart of the Vale countryside and only 10 minutes west of the centre of Cardiff.

Non-members most welcome. Guest membership is £6.

Would you like to sponsor one of our events? We can offer you, or your business, an excellent package of benefits. Please contact us for details.

The VWBN is an informal and friendly networking forum for women who live or work in the Vale.

A quote from our last event: "I am in the very early stages of starting my own business, and see this network as a welcome opportunity to seek inspiration as well as share ideas with other successful women in business! This network was recommended through a friend as being very enjoyable, as well as fruitful."

For more information, contact members@vwbn.org.uk

Vale Women's Business Network
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Crowds flock to Laleston Point to Point

ABOVE: The sequence of four pictures show (left to right) a rider and horse struggling to stay together after misjudging a fence.In the end, the horse kept upright and they stayed in the race.

TOM David, riding his grandfather Rhys David's grey mare *Tanmeya,* landed the members' race at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

In a handy position throughout, *Tanmeya* took the lead five fences from the finish to win by 20 lengths from *Its Danny Boy,* partnered by James Tudor,with *Merthyrmawr*, ridden by Tom's younger brother Evan, a further 15 lengths back in third place.

Tanmeya, who jumped well throughout the race, was Tom's fifth winner of the season. The men's open race was won by Paul Miles's *Lady Myfanwy,* who was chalking her 18th winner between-the-flags.

Ridden by Carmarthen's Dai Jones, *Lady Myfanwy* jumped the last in front and withheld the challenge of *Minsgill Man*, ridden by James Tudor, by half-a-length, with *Seaforde* back in third spot.

Jones later made it a double when taking the young horse maiden race on Catherine Rhead's *Bless Me Father,* who won by 25 lengths from *Dockbridge*, ridden by Nick Williams.

Pembrokeshire's Lucy Jones, riding her nine-year-old mare *Dancing Credit*, made nearly all the running to win the confined race by 12 lengths from *Passenger Omar*.

Only two horses faced the starter in the ladies' open race and the odds-on favourite, *Grey Kid*, ridden by Jodie Hughes, made every post a winning one, finishing 20 lengths ahead of *Touch Closer,* who had travelled from Worcestershire.

An even longer traveller was John Edwards's *What Of It*, who is qualified with the Quorn in Leicestershire. Well ridden by the owner's son Tim Edwards, 31, in the restricted race, the ex-Irish horse, who was backed from 7-1 to 5-2, beat the pacemaking favourite *Burren Chieftain* by three lengths after taking up the running approaching the penultimate fence.

John Edwards used to be a leading National Hunt trainer in the Herefordshire area. *What Of It* is trained by his daughter Sophie George and was winning for the first time this season.

In the aged maiden, Dai Rees's eleven-year-old *Running Lord*, the oldest horse in the race, proved too speedy for the locally-trained *Musique En Tete* and gave Tenby's John Mathias his 14th winner of the season.

Alice Tudor, the 11-year-old daughter of Mrs Judith Tudor, the hon secretary of the Llangeinor Hunt Races, had plenty to smile about after winning the 138cm-and-under novice pony race on her 13-year-old *Bugsy*. Alice, a member of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, was chalking up her first winner in just three rides.

Only two competitors – *Oscar* and *Tommys Girl*– lined up for the 148cm open pony race and, in an exciting finish *Tommy Girl*, ridden by Jordan Williams,11,beat *Oscar*, ridden by Jordan's brother, Robert who is 15.

The Tredegar Farmers Hunt is holding its annual point-to-point races at Lower Machen on Sunday (First race 2pm.).

There are 142 entries and 45 of these are down to run in the open maiden race. Popular point-to-pointers *Bob Bites Back, Mick's Prospect, Tigu, Chesnut Annie* and *Grey Kid* are all entered.

Brian Lee

ABOVE: Alice Tudor was the winner of the novice pony race on Bugsy.

Photos by MANDY THOMAS *(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)*
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SALE BEGINS FRIDAY, 8TH MAY AT 10 A.M.

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CARDIFF AND VALE SCHOOLS ATHLETICS SENIOR CUP FINAL

VALE ATHLETES CLAIM BOTH TEAM TITLES

Steffan Jones (Bro Morgannwg) finished second in the 100 metres but picked up maximum points.

Leah Grisdale (Bro Morgannwg) in high jump action under the watchful eye of Head of PE, Mr Richard Chidley.

Josh Hill (Llantwit), winner of the javelin and second in the high jump

THE new track and field season opened for Cardiff & the Vale Schools' Athletics Association last month with the staging of Senior Cup Final for pupils in years 11 to 14.

The old Cardiff Athletic Stadium at Leckwith was notorious for its unhelpful headwinds for sprinters and hurdlers. Its replacement, on the opposite side of Leckwith Road and called the Cardiff International Sports Stadium, started on a brighter note with a cloudy sky, mild temperatures and very little wind.

Athletes and schools organisers will hope that those conditions will be the norm for the rest of the summer.

Vale athletes made the most of the conditions, winning 11 of the 22 individual events and, more importantly, claiming both team titles.

Two new Cup best sets were set, both by Vale athletes, and both by girls.

The girls' discus best was set at 24.08 metres by former Barry & Vale Harrier Sharyn Crayford (Glantaf) as long ago as 1997. That mark did not look in danger, despite the presence of experienced year-12 throwers Ayla Phillips (Llantwit) and Sian Balchin (Kings Monkton) until Barry resident Balchin unleashed the final attempt of the first discus competition. Her effort flew out and landed on the 24.51 metres mark.

Brownie points at that point to the leader of the discus officials, Miss Laura Hale (Cowbridge), for spotting that the distance was a new best, and for calling the field referee, Mr Derek Crowder, to confirm the distance.

The second new best came early in the third round of field events, but was not noted by the officials. In the shot, Ayla Phillips, better known as a hammer thrower, opened with a put of 10.19 metres, the first time that a girl has bettered 10 metres in this competition, and an addition of 31 centimetres to Melanie Umbleja's 2001 mark.

Two other Vale girls, both year-12 and from Bro Morgannwg, caught the eye with victories. With no pole vault in this event, Elinor Lewis turned her attention to other events and won both the 80 metres hurdles and triple jump, while her team-mate Leah Grisdale opened her season with a modest leap of 1.40 metres to finish top of the high jumpers.

In the boys' events, Barry Comprehensive year-12 Curtis Matthews, sadly a one-athlete team, was the undoubted star. The Welsh Schools Combined Events International underlined his all-round talent with three wins, claiming the long jump, discus and high jump, all with encouraging early season performances.

Four other Vale boys scored victories. On the track, Welsh under-20 cross-country international Tom Whitmarsh-Knight ran a useful 200 metres as a warm-up and then went on to win the 1,500 metres, while Fred White (Cowbridge) had a comfortable victory in the 400 metres.

Year-11 Dan Clarke (St Cyres) claimed the distinction of being the first field event winner, taking the shot with a respectable distance, while Llantwit year-13 Josh Hill had a six metres advantage in the javelin, and matched the winning height of 1.75 metres in the high jump, but had to settle for second on countback to Curtis Matthews.

One Vale athlete claimed maximum event points although only finishing second in his race. The multi-talented Steffan Jones finished second in the 100 metres, but the winner, Plasmawr sixth former Lloyd Bowen was declared as non-scoring athlete so Jones claimed the maximum individual points (11) for Bro Morgannwg.

It would be helpful if all these Vale athletes could pencil in Saturday, July 4 in their diaries. That's the date that Cardiff & the Vale will be hosting the 62nd Welsh Schools' National track and field championships at new Leckwith and, on their form at this Senior Cup Final, it looks very likely that they will be invited to compete.

Elinor Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) in the 80 metres hurdles

Fred White (Cowbridge) on his way to victory in the 400 metres.

The real icing on the cake came at the end of the meeting. In the past, both Cowbridge and Llantwit have won sections at this early season competition, but neither school was strong enough to repeat their success this year.

Instead, it was Bro Morgannwg who rose to the occasion to claim victory in not one but both sections for the first time – so the Barry school has two trophies to collect at the Track and Field Presentation Evening, which will be held at Cardiff High on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Senior Boys (Years 11 to 14) – 100: 2 Steffan Jones (Bro M) 11.5; 4= James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 11.8; 6 Dan Jones (Cow) 12.1; 9 David Griffiths Llantwit) 12.4; 10 Andrew McNichol Llantwit) 13.2.

200: 2 Elliot Leachman (St Cyres) 23.8; 4 Tomos Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 24.3; 6 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 25.0; 7 Ashley Williams Llantwit) 25.5.

400: 1 Fred White (Cow) 54.4; 5 Elliot Thorne (St Cyres) 57.8; 6 Joel Ferriday (Bro M) 59.3.

800: 4 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 2:13.2; 8 Rhys Allin (Cow) 2:22.9; 9 Darren Jones Llantwit) 2:27.9.

1,500: 1 Tomos Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 4:27.6; 4 Darren Jones Llantwit) 4:35.5; 6 Steven Earls (St Cyres) 5.19.7; 7 Matt Rowland (Cow) 5.33.9.

100H: 2 Corrie Ellis (Bro M) 15.6; 3 Rhys Allin (Cow) 15.6; 4 Sam Booker Llantwit) 16.6; 6 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 19.3.

HJ: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry Comp) 1.75; 2 Josh Hill Llantwit) 1.75; 3= Cory Allen (Bro M) 1.70; 3= Sam Booker Llantwit) 1.70; 5 Ollie Trotter (Cow) 1.70; 9 James Wiltshire (St Cyres) 1.55.

LJ: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry Comp) 6.11; 2 Rhys Allin (Cow) 5.76; 5 Joel Ferriday (Bro M) 5.17; 6 Sam Booker Llantwit) 5.10; 7 David Griffiths Llantwit) 4.79; 9 Elliot Thorne (St Cyres) 4.68.

TJ: 2 Cory Ellis (Bro M) 11.44; 3 Josh Hill Llantwit) 11.32; 4 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 11.12; 6 Liam Wingren (St Cyres) 10.23.

SP: 1 Dan Clarke (St Cyres) 12.09; 5 Matthew Wilcox (Cow) 10.83; 6 Kyle Paylor Llantwit) 10.65; 7 Corrie Ellis (Bro M) 10.57.

DT: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry Comp) 33.66; 2 Jimmy Rodd (St Cyres) 30.27; 3 Nick Davies (Cow) 28.97; 5 Seb Vidal (Bro M) 27.13; 6 Kyle Paylor Llantwit) 26.13.

JT: 1 Josh Hill Llantwit) 43.78; 2 Bradley Cole (St Cyres) 37.64; 3 Josh Rowe (Bro M) 36.91; 5 Justin Davies (Cow) 35.61.

4 x 100: 2 Bro Morgannwg 47.3; 4 Cowbridge 48.0; 5 St Cyres 49.2; 6 Llantwit Major 49.8.

Team: 1 Bro Morgannwg 100; 3 Cowbridge 89; 4 St Cyres 79; 6 Llantwit 73; 8 Barry Comprehensive 33.

Senior Girls – 100: 3 Eleri Phillips-Griffiths (Bro M) 14.2; 4 Alice Palmer-Evans (Cow) 14.9.

200: 3 Leah Grisdale (Bro M) 29.3; 4 Heather Jarvis (Cow) 32.4.

300: 3 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 48.6; 4 Georgia Kemeys (Cow) 48.3.

800: 2 Maddi Edgeworth (Cow) 2:49.3; 4 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 3:13.5.

1,500: 2 Sabrina James (Cow) 6.19.5; 3 Bethan Heslop (Bro M) 6.38.8.

80H: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 12.7; 4 Kathryn Brown (Cow) 17.0.

HJ: 1 Leah Grisdale (Bro M) 1.40; 2 Maddi Edgeworth (Cow) 1.30.

LJ: 4 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 4.24; 5 Alice Palmer-Evans (Cow) 3.61.

TJ: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 10.04; 4 Heather Jarvis (Cow) 8.40.

SP: 1 Ayla Phillips Llantwit) 10.19 (Cup BP); 2 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 8.73; 4 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 7.78; 6 Louise Edwards (Cow) 6.56.

DT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 24.51 (Cup BP); 3 Stevie Martin (Bro M) 18.57; 4 Olivia Hulme (Cow) 16.64; 5 Ayla Phillips Llantwit) 16.28.

JT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 27.10; 2 Ayla Phillips Llantwit) 25.76; 4 Jamie Treweeks (Bro M) 22.44; 7 Olivia Hulme (Cow) 12.34.

4x100: 1 Bro Morgannwg 54.8; 4 Cowbridge 58.6.

Team: 1 Bro Morgannwg 99; 4 Cowbridge 78; 7 Llantwit 23.

PETER MORRIS
(PHOTOS IAN DIXON)

Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) winner of the 1500 metres

Cottrell ladies in Texas scramble

ON April 9, 52 ladies were lucky to complete their 12-hole Texas scramble in fine weather before the rain came.

Following a good lunch, Lorraine Pointen-Bell Ladies Vice captain, presented the team prize to the winners Margaret Thomas, Tessa Mathews, Santa Evans and Patricia Haines with a net score of 41.8. Margaret Thomas (ladies captain) presented the Winter eclectic trophy to Vicki Long.

The ladies are now looking forward to a visit to Aberglasney in the near future.

CB

Vicki Long with Margaret Thomas.

ABOVE: The winning team.

Out and About with The GEM

The claws are out for poor Wolverine!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

TEN years ago, Hugh Jackman was a musical actor, gaining critical kudos for his role as Curly in the West End stage production of *Oklahoma!* and an Olivier award nomination to boot.

One outing as the iconic Wolverine in 2000's *X-Men* later, and Jackman became an overnight film star, his performance as the laconic hero earning similar praise.

He went on to reprise the character in two sequels, while also starring in films such as *The Prestige* and *Australia*, but returns to the character that made his name in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*.

As the title suggests, the film is set before the first *X-Men* film, and shows how Wolverine became the man he was when we met him in that cage at the start of the first film, a story that involves an array of mutants (including Liev Schreiber's Sabretooth and Ryan Reynolds' Deadpool) as well as a character familiar to fans of *X2*, Colonel William Stryker (Danny Huston)...

It seems conventional now that when visiting or revisiting the roots of a character, everything must be as dark and dramatic as possible. When this is delivered with panache and allied with skilled directors and cast, then the results are mightily impressive; just look at *Casino Royale* or *Batman Begins* as evidence of how origin stories can entertain as well as brood.

It's a template that the makers of *Wolverine* (including star Hugh Jackman, on board as producer here) seem to have taken notice of – the only trouble being when you dilute your main protagonist's charisma by placing the weight of the world upon his shoulders, the end result is something quite dull and disappointing.

Naysayers may point out that the three *X-Men* films so far have been somewhat driven by the character of Wolverine, thus making a standalone film somewhat redundant. However, the origins of the character are certainly more worthy of exploration than those of, say, Storm or Nightcrawler; after all, the character of Wolverine has an intriguing back-story that, in theory, should be served well by a film explaining how he became the man we meet in the first *X-Men* film.

Theory, though, doesn't always equal fact, and the fact here is that *Wolverine* is a drab stab at illuminating the clawed one's early years.

The opening half-hour is particularly cumbersome, introducing characters who are barely required for the story and weighing it down with boring dialogue that is supposed to espouse depth, but just comes across as hackneyed.

Things pick up with the smattering of action sequences, which are handled well by director Gavin Hood. A newcomer to the action genre (his breakthrough feature, *Tsotsi*, is definitely worth tracking down) he at least attempts to direct with conviction and gives the film an individual style, not weighing it down with the greys and blues that became the hallmark of the *X*-franchise.

However, saddling him with some shoddy effects work doesn't help, nor does the repetitive nature of the action on display; how many times do Sabretooth and Wolverine really need to fight each other?

The script moves in broad circles, the characters introduced alongside Wolverine being a ragtag mob who you couldn't really care less about.

The exception is Deadpool, who shows more charisma and charm in five minutes than poor Wolverine gets to show in the entire film. The reason Wolverine is so beloved is his belligerent attitude, covering his strong moral compass, a quick wit and his ability to brawl – yet only the latter is truly served by the material, the former seeing too much of the moral compass and less of the reluctant hero.

The performances are not too bad – Jackman supremely comfortable in the skin of Wolverine and delivering a decent turn, while Liev Schreiber's Sabretooth and Danny Huston's Stryker offer up fair villains that you hope receive their comeuppance.

But far too many members of the cast – Ryan Reynolds, Dominic Monaghan, Lynn Collins – are given short shrift by the script, which fails to give the audience anything to hang onto about their characters and, therefore, makes their performances somewhat redundant; a shame given Reynolds' patter is well worth far more than the miniscule screen time he actually gets.

The most annoying thing about the film is how it plays with the continuity of the films so far, and then uses a plot device so mind-numbingly daft to remedy it.

It's a moment that should be treated with real pathos, but instead you find yourself sitting there wondering if a mega-budget Hollywood film has really just used such a convoluted plot device to end the film, and is typical of the film as a whole.

There is a Wolverine film that is definitely worth making, yet with all the best intentions, this one most certainly isn't it.

Verdict – A disappointingly dull film that comes nowhere near expectations, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* is a damp squib of a film. Hackneyed and convoluted narrative turns can't be overcome by some half-decent performances and pleasing, if unremarkable, direction.

Those who deem Wolverine to be their comic book idol will no doubt feel more aggrieved than the average cinemagoer, but even they will be let down by what promised to be a worthwhile film. *Poor*.

Barry U3A

DUE to the May Bank Holiday, the Barry U3A will meet at the Phillip John Room, Barry Library at 2.15pm-4.14pm on Monday, May 11.

Bring an object of interest for a 10-minute talk about the object.

On Tuesday, June 2 the first AGM will be held at the Phillip John Room at 2pm-4pm and subscribing members will be able to vote.

The U3A genealogy meeting will take place at the library computer room (2pm-4pm) on May 19.

Church fayre

CROSSWAYS Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry, will be holding their spring fayre, on Saturday, May 16, at 2pm.

There will be a variety of stalls including cakes, bedding plants, handmade crafts, toys, tombola and a raffle. Admission is 50p. All are welcome.

Trefoil Guild

THE Llantwit Major Trefoil Guild's next meeting will be in the Guide Hut, at 7.30pm, on May 19, when there will be a speaker. ***Telephone 01446 793652 for details.***

The Art of Dr Seuss!

ART CENTRAL at Barry is the first venue in Wales to host 'The Art of Dr Seuss' touring exhibition, supported by the Arts Council of Wales.

Between May 9 - June 6, prints, poetry, advertisements, cartoons, magazine cover designs, secret art and an 'unorthodox taxidermy' sculpture will be on display at the Town Hall venue.

Bryn Hafren girls' reunion

A REUNION has been organised for a class of Barry girls who were in 5H2 of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive in 1979.

It will take place on Friday, May 22, at 8pm in the Old College Inn, Buttrills Road, Barry.

For more information, telephone Judith Richardson on 01446 746241.

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Revolutionary Road (15)
More awards for Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio! Tues 12 (7.30pm), Weds 13 (1.30pm, 7.30pm)
Free arts and craft classes
Have a go at drawing, ballroom dancing, jewellery-making Fri 15 (11am - 5.30pm)
Curious Case of Benjamin Button (15)
Affectionate tale of the man who ages backwards Tues 19 (7.30pm), Weds 20 (1.30pm, 7.30pm)
Drawing Class
Thurs 21 (10am - 4pm)
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News in and out of the classroom at the Barry Comprehensive School

WATERFALLS, GLACIERS AND VOLCANIC CRATERS

SEVENTEEN intrepid pupils and two staff from Barry Comprehensive visited Iceland over the Easter holidays.

The trip was organised as a joint venture with Cowbridge Comprehensive and has been hailed as a great success.

The geology and geography students were able to experience first hand much of what they have learned in class.

The group visited spectacular waterfalls, walked on a glacier, entered volcanic craters and were sprayed by active geysers.

There was also time for relaxing in the geothermal pools and the world-famous Blue Lagoon before flying home.

Mr Prickett (head of faculty) would like to congratulate the students on their exemplary behaviour and attitude throughout the trip. The trip will hopefully run again in two years time.

AC

LEFT: The Barry and Cowbridge students were spellbound by the spectacular waterfall at Svartifoss.

Straddling the mid-Atlantic ridge.

ABOVE: Basalt columns at Dverghammar.

LANGUAGE AWARD

ON March 30, Eissa (French foreign language assistant) and Caelum Davies went to Cardiff Museum for an award ceremony.

A group of year-10 pupils came first in a national competition, winning a projector for the languages department and goodie bags for the rest of the group.

Caelum represented the group as the other students were on a study visit to France.

Caelum Davies, along with George Scott, Tom Ellis, Jared Cornish, Sam Herbert and Mike Crompton (with help from Eissa) produced an excellent board game.

Their aim was to produce a project to get to know their foreign language assistant. Other projects were submitted by the school, a PowerPoint presentation and another board game – and these pupils were also highly praised.

The day was a big success – with lots of prizes, food and fun, and we look forward to next year's competition.

ABOVE: Caelum and Eissa at Cardiff Museum with the winning board game.

Ready, aim but don't fire!

HMS MONMOUTH VISIT

BARRY Comprehensive School was invited to send a party of 30 students to visit the Royal Navy's *HMS Monmouth*, which had docked in Britannia Quay, Cardiff.

Year-7 pupils have settled into the school very well since joining in September, and 30 of them were selected as a reward for their hard work and commitment.

HMS Monmouth is an operational warship and the students were able to mix freely with young serving naval listings and benefit from a tour of the ship.

It was certainly a fascinating insight into the life at sea for those that have decided on a career with the Royal Navy.

Pupils chatted with the crew.

Gwenfo captures the award for 'best sporting school'

Pupils from the school with headteacher Mrs Simpson (left) and games teacher Miss Pratt (right).

GWENFO Church in Wales primary school featured in a presentation evening at the Memorial Hall, Barry of the Vale of Glamorgan Sports Personality Awards hosted by Arfon Haines Davies.

Gwenfo Primary School won 'best school' for sporting achievements, in a wide variety of sporting activities.

Mrs Helen Stone was also nominated for community coach of the year for her contribution to the school's wide range of sporting activities and her dedicated work with the additional learning needs coordination group.

Quality mark

GWENFO Primary School has gained the Basic Skills Agency Quality Mark for the third time.

This is awarded to schools who reach excellent standards in the teaching of reading, writing and maths.

Headteacher Mrs Simpson and pupils.

Pupils with Mrs Stone.

Barry College tutor's awards for his work

BARRY College electrical installation lecturer Geoff Shaw has received awards for his commitment to adult learners and apprentices.

The NIACE Dysgu Cymru, advocates of adult learning in Wales, was for his work as "an inspiring tutor and mentor." His commitment was also recognised by City & Guilds with another award.

The head of the college engineering department, Richard Thomas, pictured here with Mr Shaw, Peter Cope, chair of governors, and principal Paul Halstead, said: "Geoff has helped provide life-changing opportunities that have made a real difference to people. Some former learners have gone on to set up their own businesses and are now beginning to send their apprentices to Barry College."

BARRIVALE BRIDGE LATEST RESULTS

ABOVE: Tom Kendrick, Irene Thomas and Dave Thomas, three members of the team who won the Alan Garland Birthday teams plaque.

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, April 28 – **1st** Mike Best and Mike Close 62.50 per cent; **2nd** Denis Mottram and Joan Jenkins 60.71 per cent; **3rd** Mick Green and Kay Dyer 60.12 per cent.

Denis and Joan were the handicap winners.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale

For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

Developments in Conservation Areas

Application No: 2009/00397/FUL
Proposal: Proposed enclosed staircase, alterations to dormer window and rooflights to rear elevation and adaptation and alterations to rear single storey extension to form balcony
Location: 9, Charles Place, Barry
Conservation Area: Barry (Marine)

Application No: 2009/00400/LBC
Proposal: Creation of opening to rear building to facilitate off road parking
Location: Church Farmhouse, Church Farm, Monknash
Conservation Area: Monknash

Application No: 2009/00402/FUL
Proposal: Concrete construction garden shed
Location: 2, Church Cottages, Rhoose Road, Rhoose
Conservation Area: Rhoose

Application No: 2009/00404/FUL
Proposal: Replace existing windows with sliding French doors. Raise outside shop front, create decked area with railings to accommodate tables and chairs that already use the existing space
Location: 4, Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area: Penarth

Application No: 2009/00410/FUL
Proposal: Take down existing first floor conservatory and construct new study with verandah
Location: Hendre, Michaelston-le-Pit
Conservation Area: Michaelston-le-Pit

Application No: 2009/00414/FUL
Proposal: Renewal of planning permission 03/00955/FUL - Proposed dwelling
Location: Land off Middlegate Court, Cowbridge
Conservation Area: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No: 2009/00415/FUL
Proposal: Two storey extension and internal reconfigurations. Demolish existing garage and rebuild a new garage
Location: Montclare, Michaelston le Pit, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area: Michaelston-le-Pit

Application No: 2009/00425/LBC
Proposal: Replace old shop sign to front exterior
Location: Quills of Cowbridge, 52, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent

Application No: 2009/00400/LBC
Proposal: Creation of opening to rear building to facilitate off road parking
Location: Church Farmhouse, Church Farm, Monknash
Listed Building: Grade II

Application No: 2009/00425/LBC
Proposal: Replace old shop sign to front exterior
Location: Quills of Cowbridge, 52, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building: Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER, 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest

Application No: 2009/00428/FUL
Proposal: Proposed primary care medical centre and associated works
Location: Land north of Hood Road, Barry Waterfront

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way

Application No: 2009/00401/FUL
Proposal: Proposed conversion of existing garage/workshop to form tourist accommodation with double garage and games room/storage over
Location: Middlecross House, Llancarfan

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 7th May, 2009

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

We're all little dragons!

ABOVE:
The WCKA LiL' Dragons club in Rhoose recently had a belt grading and all the young ones passed, with help from their coaches, Master Derek Hughes and Mr David Harris. Mr Harris said: "I would like to congratulate David Jones in getting his first belt, and Lisa Grice in getting her LiL' Dragon black belt." Mr Harris also said well done to Dylan (John) Hutton who is the youngest LiL' Dragon at three years old. The WCKA Rhoose LiL' Dragons black belt academy hold s classes at the Rhoose Community Hall, Station Road, every Wednesday at 5pm,

Cowbridge Bowling Club make good start in new competition with victory

IN a busy week for Cowbridge Bowling Club, the ladies played in a new league, the St Fagan's Rose Bowl, which is a two-rink competition, in a home fixture to Whitchurch Hospital ladies. .

They were on both rinks. May Jones' rink of Glenys Davies, Judy Springett and Sue Flower, won 32-10, which included a 'hot-shot' (all eight shots at one end).

Joan Bradley's rink of Diane Purnell, Mary Thomas and Pauline McAllen, won 27-8. For a 59-18 win, a good start to their new competition.

On Tuesday, a friendly with Pencoed was cancelled because of heavy rain.

In the league game at home to Barry Plastics, again played in rain, they just won in an excellent match, 46-44.

Joan Bradley's rink was the only winning rink, 19-8. Sue Flowers' rink lost 13-21 and May Jones' rink only just lost 14-15.

The men had a friendly against Bridgend Municipal, which they won 95-64. This was a five-rink match, and Cowbridge won on four and lost on one. Rink scores: Dennis Snelling's rink won 25-20; Roger Barwick's rink won 17-10; Byron Richard's rink won 18-11; and Norman Wilkinson's rink won 20-13.

The only losing rink was Len Taylor's who lost 15-20.

In the first serious match of the season for the men, A Carruthers Shield match away to Llantwit Major. They lost very badly 46-106. All four rink lost heavily. Roger Barwick's (15-26); Norman Wilkinson's (11-29); Byron Richards' (12-26) and Dennis Snelling's (8-25).

On a good note, the ladies held a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Fund and raised £466.

NJW

Dinas Powys FC suffer a bout of those end-of-season blues

by MORLEY WILLIAMS

WELSH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE	
BRIDGEND TOWN	4
DINAS POWYS	0

IF the pitch in the previous game at Bettws was the worst Dinas have played on this season, then the surface at the University of Glamorgan playing fields at Treforest on Saturday was comfortably the best.

Dinas were in this game for the first 10 minutes , but thereafter they hardly had a look-in, with the Bridgend defence hardly troubled.

The first goal came from when a corner was headed against the upright by Brian Showdery. A Bridgend forward was the first to react with a shot from six yards that the referee judged to have crossed the line before defender Lee Barry cleared with his hand.

Just five minutes later, the lively Mathew De Cae was allowed to run fully 50 yards without a challenge before his shot was deflected onto the crossbar, and Anthony Waters had the easiest of jobs to head the rebound over the line for the second.

The third came when Scott Hillman headed in a free-kick in a miserable first-half for the visitors.

The home side cruised through the second-half, with Dinas only able to trouble keeper Brendan Cropley with a couple of cross shots he palmed over for unproductive corners.

The final goal came four minutes from time when the Dinas keeper could only palm away a corner to Brian Showdery to score from close range.

Dinas go into the final three matches of the season safe in the knowledge that they secured enough points early in the season to avoid relegation.

BETTWS	1
DINAS POWYS	0

A POOR game on April 29 was brightened by an excellent strike for the winning goal – pity it was at the wrong end as far as Dinas were concerned!

The goal came in the 20th minute when a free-kick was awarded to the home side just inside the Dinas half.

The ball was played short for Christian Burge who was given time to turn and hit a 25-yard shot that curled into the top corner for the only goal of the game.

The rest of the game was a dull affair, with neither side looking capable of adding to the goal tally on an uneven and difficult pitch.

The difference between the sides was that Bettws were that bit quicker to the ball, with Dinas looking lethargic in comparison to the last two games.

Forthcoming fixtures: Welsh League Division One, Saturday, May 9, Dinas Powys v Bryntirion Ath, (kick-off at 2.30pm).

For a full list of fixtures see the club's web site: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

Bonvilston winner is ready for Lower Machen

by BRIAN LEE

MORE than 140 entries have been received for the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Steeplechases at Lower Machen, near Newport, on Sunday.

Racing gets under way with the members' race at 2pm and all eyes will be on Edna Hussey's *Bob Bites Back*, winner of the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow recently.

Horses and riders from many parts of the country will be taking part at this popular annual fixture where the racing can be viewed from a natural bank, or from the centre of the course.

Beth Roberts's prolific winner *Chesnut Annie* is down to run in the ladies' open race and might have most to fear from *Dancing Credit*, who has won her last three races.

Others to be considered are *Mollycarrsbrekfast* and *Honest Endevour*.

Recent Bonvilston winner *Tigu*, owned locally by Chris Bolton, has *Ester Boy* and *Overlut* to beat in the men's open race, while in the race for novice and veteran riders, the front running *Grey Kid* will take some catching.

HEAD START FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS AT PARC TYN Y COED

There's great news for first time buyers in Bridgend. Barratt South Wales is offering a 'Head Start' deal at its Parc Tyn y Coed development in Sarn, where you can combine the best of rural and out of town living. This popular development offers a superb range of two, three and four bedroom homes, for everyone from young professionals to growing families, and with this excellent offer from Barratt, now is the perfect time to get a foot on the property ladder.

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Parc Tyn Y Coed is ideally situated in the semi-rural area of Sarn, just off Heol Cwrdy. There's a good choice of primary and secondary schools in the area and around a five-minute drive away is Bridgend with a variety of shops and amenities. The train station at Sarn is less than half a mile away making this development ideal for commuters with the journey to Cardiff Central taking around 35 minutes. Cardiff International Airport is 14.5 miles away.

Prices are from £136,500 for a three-bedroom house and from £191,995 for a four-bedroom house. The sales and marketing suite at Parc Tyn y Coed, Sarn, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF32 9NQ is open Thursday to Monday, 11am to 6pm, telephone: 01656 725 348. Further information is available on www.barratthomes.co.uk

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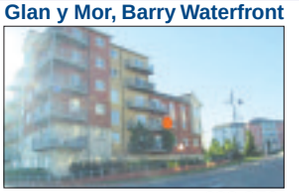

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Love Mum, Dad, Rob and Nan
x x x

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Love from Mum & Dad and all the family. *x x x*

Family Notices

Elsie Neate

Peacefully at home on Friday May 1, Elsie, wife of the late Harry, loving mother of Ray, Liz and Chris, mother-in-law to Gill, Chris and Kate, much-loved Grannie and Great Grannie.

Funeral service at Ebenezer Chapel, Beach Road, Llantwit Major, 2pm, Monday May 11, followed by burial at Boverton Cemetery. Family flowers only. For further details, contact WA Brown & Son, College St., Llantwit Major, 01446 792489.

Public Notices

Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the
Thompson Street Communities First Partnership Board
will be held at the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU on Monday 1st June 2009, at 11am
for the purposes on considering and if thought fit, passing the following resolution which will be proposed as an extraordinary resolution, namely:

"That following a decision taken by the Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Regeneration, the Thompson Street Communities First Partnership be formally dissolved and its liabilities and assets be dealt with under the terms of its constitution."

By order of the Thompson Street Communities First Partnership Board.
Bryan Jeffreys, Secretary.

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Barry's indoor hockey squad are ready to roll!

HEAVILY-EQUIPPED and ready to roll, Brent Pope, the former Cardiff Devils ice hockey star and founder of the Devils Community Foundation, joined forces with local youth organisation Vibe Experience to provide a fast and furious roller hockey session for the young people of Barry.

The Devils Community Foundation (DCF) is the club's official charity, aiming to "engage, cultivate and re-connect strong relationships within the community of south Wales".

Until recently, the DCF had not ventured to the Vale, but together with Vibe Experience, it ran an exciting session for both boys and girls in Barry as part of 'Splash', a school holiday scheme.

Brent provided all the roller hockey kit, from skates to sticks, and not forgetting the goals. The only thing the young people needed to bring was themselves!

This game is fast and furious, but lots and lots of fun and certainly didn't scare off the young skaters. Fifteen boys and girls came along and took part, all varying in age and ability.

Once kitted up, the youngsters found their feet with some technical and tackling exercises to warm up. Before long, a full match was in progress.

Lewis Briggs, Lewis Darsons, Simon Meades, Geraint Andrews, Gareth Messer, Kieran Eveleigh, Shawn R, Kai G, CJ, James D, Jamie Sugden, Georgia Mitchell, Kazia Hawker, Joe Crane and Callum Cullinane skated and tackled with speed.

Goals were scored, the teams were evenly-matched and the game was tense. After a long, tiring, high-speed game, it was a draw!

The day had been a great success with the young people of Barry. One young player said: "I think it's a really good idea, anyone can have a go. It's exhausting, but brilliant!"

Dominique of Vibe Experience said: "We have been very lucky to team up with Brent and the DCF. It offers young people something fun and active for both boys and girls. I hope we can continue to work together."

Vibe Experience and the Devils Community Foundation will be looking to work together in the near future as part of a 'Splash' summer scheme. Any young person who would like to know more about activities in the area should contact Dominique at Vibe on 01446 733622.

LEFT: Young people in Barry took to indoor roller hockey like ducks to water, under the instruction of Cardiff Devils ice hockey star Brent Pope.

YSGOL GYFUN PLAYERS ARE IN SEVENS HEAVEN!

ABOVE: The victorious sevens team with their shield.

IT has been a thrilling, hectic but hugely successful few weeks for the school's seven-a-side rugby teams at all age categories.

Year-10 crowned a fantastic season by emerging as all-Wales champions in the Urdd National seven-a-side competition held recently at Parc y Sgarlets, Llanelli.

This follows on from their victory at the prestigious Bishopston Sevens competition in early March.

Tom Perry was voted player of the tournament at Bishopston.

Year-8 and the senior team have also exceeded their previous best and all teams have made huge progress under the guidance of Rhys Beynon from the PE department and his assistant coaches.

Year-8 beat the much-fancied Cowbridge team to be runners up at the Whitchurch Sevens, losing narrowly to a very strong Glantaf side in the final.

The senior team have maintained an excellent position at the top of the midweek table, while making strides in sevens competitions.

They progressed to the last eight at the invitation sevens tournament at Llandovery College in March, while progressing to the last 16 at the annual Rosslyn Park sevens, an amazing feat, considering that this is only their third year in existence as a senior team.

Year-8 and year-10 also achieved an amazing last 32 place in the renowned Rosslyn Park competition.

In addition to these successes, nine pupils have been chosen to represent the Vale at rugby and former pupil Lloyd Williams from Cowbridge has been chosen in the Wales under-20 squad to compete at the under-20s World cup.

We wish him well and congratulate all boys involved in the sevens squads. Well done!

MEINIR THOMAS

Barry Amateur Swimming Club holds Ray Sutton Gala

ON April 25, Barry Amateur Swimming Club held its annual Ray Sutton Gala at Barry Leisure Centre.

The pool and viewing area was packed with swimmers and spectators, with swimmers coming from Llandarcy, Llantrisant, Blaenafon and as far a field as Chepstow.

Barry entered an A and a B team so that some of the new swimmers could experience swimming in a gala for the first time.

Much preparation was done by the swimmers through the coaching team lead by the new chief coach Malcolm Wilson.

Rhys James, who is a fairly new swimmer, made it into the A team and produced the first winning swim of the night.

Rhys came first in the 9-and-under boys 25-metre breaststroke in a time of 25s.25.

Alana Wilson, who is a seasoned swimmer with the club, gained a first place in the 13-and-under girl's 50-metre backstroke in a time of 35.06.

Swimming in the open boys 50-metre fly, Ryan Looker put in a fantastic effort and gained a first place in a time of 28.91. Ryan also achieved a personal best by improving his time by 00.72.

Not to be out done by her older brother, Georgia Looker gained a first place in the 13-and-under 50-metre butterfly in a time of 33.63, again swimming more that two seconds faster than the other swimmers and improving on her personal best by 01.40.

The open mixed relay team came in first in the 4 x 50 metre butterfly relay in a time of 2m.07.19.

Not to be out done by the older swimmers the 9-and-under mixed relay team, swimming 4 x 25 metre breaststroke, gained first place in a time of 01m.43.65, which was two seconds faster than the other teams.

Swimming in the 9-and-under girl's 4 x 25 metre freestyle relay, Barry A team gained another first place in a time of 1m.20.12. The girls 13-and-under gained a first place in the 4 x 25 metre freestyle relay in a time of 1m.00.53, coming in more than two seconds before the next team.

There were some outstanding swims by swimmers who did not win their races but improved their personal bests.

Ryan Taylor improved his time in the boys open 50-metre breaststroke by just over 11 seconds coming in third.

Alannah Sullivan fought hard to improve her girls 11-and-under 50-metre back stroke personal best by just under 11 seconds.

Lauren Prynne also swam very hard to improve her time by just over nine seconds in the 11-and-under girl's 50-metre backstroke.

For the boys open 50-metre breast stroke, James French also put in a very strong swim, improving his personal best for this event by just over eight seconds.

Many other swimmers also improved their personal best by over five seconds for their races, so well done to Llinos Goodland, Jonathan Haggett, James Hamer, Jac Harries, Samual Smith, Alice Teague and Peter Teague.

Unfortunately, after having fought so hard, Barry A team came in fourth, gaining 235 points, with Llantrisant taking the cup for first place with 270 points.

After some consideration, Malcolm Wilson chief coach announced that Ryan Taylor, for his very good swims. and Lauren Blake, for stepping in at short notice for some events, were award swimmers of the meets.

Every swimmer put in their best efforts and a big thank you must go to all the swimmers and all of the people who helped out during the event to make it such a successful day.

If you would like a trial to join Barry Amateur Swimming Club, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

ABOVE: Lauren Blake was presented with her 'swimmer of the meet' medal by Malcolm Wilson.

ABOVE: Young B team swimmers Amy Wheton and Nathan Currie.

Brave Huskies are pipped in close Valleys Cup Final

BARRY Huskies finished their Valleys League season with the Cup Final against league champions Kenfig Cougars.

This promised to be an exciting match, as the teams finished first and second in the league, with the Huskies inflicting the Cougars' only loss of the season back in November.

The Huskies welcomed Anthony Trigg back from university and travelled with a full squad. They needed it against the strongest team in south Wales, which boasted five current and former Welsh international players.

The Cougars started the game the stronger, utilising their pace to run the floor as the Huskies played an inside game, attempting to get the Cougars' big men into early foul trouble.

They succeeded in getting four quick fouls on the Cougars' Piggford, which opened the inside for Trigg to score easy baskets.

This set the tone for the remainder of the quarter. However, strong shooting gave the Cougars a 20-12 end of quarter lead.

A change of tactics from the Huskies stopped the Cougars running the floor, with Lloyd Roberts and Trigg keeping Barry close.

However, Welsh international Rod Went provided a master class in outside shooting, making every shot he attempted. Half-time saw Cougars hold a 33-28 lead.

The third quarter started with a smaller but quicker Huskies unit. James Newton started hitting outside shots and Jack Dyer ran the floor, scoring most of the Huskies early points.

Midway through the quarter, Newton fell awkwardly and twisted his ankle, forcing him to sit out the rest of the game.

The Huskies' offence started relying on Trigg, Roberts and Dyer to keep them in the game, but a cynical foul from Piggford saw Dyer leave the game with a dead leg. He did not return to the game.

Chris Lewis stepped up to fill the void left by Dyer and scored six quick points – Cougars went into the final quarter with a 49-46 lead.

The fourth quarter started close, with Trigg scoring the majority of the Huskies' points.

The Cougars started to wear down the Huskies with their deeper bench, taking advantage of the injury situation faced by the Huskies.

The scores were level with three minutes to go – however, Rod Went took the game away from the Huskies with his excellent outside shooting.

Final score 66-61 to the Cougars.

Coach Ian Gibbons said: "That was a tough game for us, but I thought we would take the win until we had our two injuries at a crucial time.

"They looked rattled and expected to win easily, but my players had other thoughts. I'm so disappointed for the players because their attitudes were fantastic.

"We have the Welsh Cup finals next weekend, which will give us the chance to avenge this defeat."

For further team information, please contact Alun Rees on 02920 531531.

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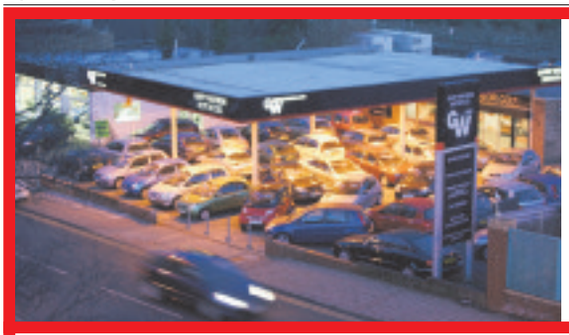

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08 **58 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback.** In amethyst purple with tungsten denim blue interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage point, colour coded bumpers, only 9,590 miles **£8,995**

08 **57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback.** In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles **£5,995**

07 **07 FORD Fusion Zetec Climate 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic tango red with onyx dream interior, alloy wheels, chrome front grille surround, front fog lights, trip computer, air con, only 10,870 miles **£6,995**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback** in aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-Dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-Dr Hatchback.** In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback** in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles **£6,495**

06 **56 CITROEN C3 1.4i Desire 5-dr Hatchback.** Artic blue, tomy blue interior, a/c, c/l, pas, 5 seats **£5,995**

06 **06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback.** In odyssey blue with jacquard black interior, front fogs, alloy wheels, CD, only 35,870 miles **£5,995**

06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 16v SXi 3-Dr Hatchback.** In pomegranite red with Duke charcoal interior, alloy wheels, CD, immobiliser, power steering, front electric windows, only 3,480 miles **£5,495**

05 **05 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Urbis 5-Dr Hatchback.** In Grey with dark grey interior, rear parking sensors, CD, alloy wheels, only 12,215 miles **£5,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.5dCi Dynamique 5-dr hatchback** in Odyssey met blue with jacquard black interior, sunroof, alloyt wheels, air con, alarm, cd, only 31,538 miles **£4,995**

03 **03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr.** In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles **£3,995**

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04 **04 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 3-Dr Hatchback.** In breeze blue with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, 5 belted seats, steering wheel audio mounted controls, only 56,321 miles **£3,495**

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07 **57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.4 16v Energy** In star silver with charcoal interior, air con, CD, MP3 connection, Isofix anchorage points, only 8,810 miles **£7,995**

05 **05 HONDA Civic SE 1.7 CDTi 5-dr Hatchback.** In magnetic blue with hatch black interior, body coloured bumpers, alloy wheels, CD, only 50,300 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Ghia MPV.** In moondust silver with Linea ebony interior, alarm, cruise control, CD, alloy wheels, only 54,290 miles **£5,995**

03 **03 VW Beetle 1.8T 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Platinum Grey with cansasta black interior, alloy wheels, CD, heated seats, front fogs, only 61,695 miles **£5,995**

03 **03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr.** In metallic Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles **£3,995**

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03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr. In metallic Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles.....**£3,995**

05 05 MINI 1.6 One Salt. In Chilli Red with anthracite interior, immobiliser, front fogs, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, only 26,450 miles.....**£7,995**

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08 57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback. In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles.....**£5,995**

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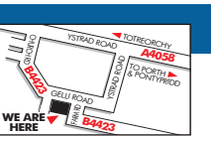

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175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£57.50	£110	£210	175/70R14 Avon CR322	£44.98	£85	£160	175/70R14 Nexo	£30.30	£58	£110
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06 **CITROEN C3 1.4i SX 5-Dr Hatch.** PAS, auto air conditoning pack, remote central locking, electric windows, radio/CD player **£5,995**

08 **CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6HDi Plus 5-Dr (5 Seat) Diesel Estate.** Red, 15,789 miles, remote central locking & deadlocks, electric windows, stereo radio/CD player and MP3 facility, cruise control & speed limiter **£12,995**

08 **CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi 16v VTR Plus 3-Dr EGS Diesel Coupe.** Black, 15,440 miles, PAS, ABS, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning,, remote central locking, electric windows, Resolfen alloy wheels, Radio/CD + MP3, electric mirrors **£11,495**

57 **CITROEN C4 Picasso 2.0 16v VTR Plus 5-Dr EGS (5 Seat) Estate.** Beige, 15,603 miles, PAS, remote central locking, electric front/rear windows, radio/CD player and MP3 facility, cruise control, electric heated door mirrors **£10,995**

07 **CITROEN C4 Grand Picasso 2.0i 16v VTR Plus 5-Dr EGS estate.** Silver, 29,000 miles, PAS, ABS, air conditioning with dual temperature setting, remote c/locking, electric front/rear windows, cruise control .. **£10,995**

56 **CITROEN C4 1.6i 16v VTR Plus 3-Dr Coupe.** Silver, 41,845 miles, PAS, remote central locking & deadlocks, electric windows, 17" Resolfen alloy wheels, radio/CD and MP3 ..... **£6,795**

56 **CITROEN C4 1.6i 16v SX 5-Dr Auto Hatch.** Silver, 23,661 miles, PAS, remote central locking and deadlocks, electric windows, radio & single CD, cruise control & speed limiter **£6,495**

56 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v Desire 5-Dr Estate.** Silver, 17,318 miles, PAS, remote central locking & dashboard control button, electric windows, stereo radio/CD player **£6,495**

56 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v Desire 5-Dr Estate.** Silver, 18,544 miles, PAS, ABS, remote central locking, electric windows, radio/CD player **£6,495**

06 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive 5-Dr Diesel Estate.** Red, 43,338 miles, PAS, automatic digital air conditioning, remote central locking and dashboard control button, electric windows, 15" Melbourne alloy wheels, radio/CD player **£6,995**

05 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 2.0 HDi Exclusive 5-Dr Diesel Estate.** Blue, 28,813 miles, PAS, ABS, automatic digital a/c, remote c/locking, electric front/rear windows, alloys, radio/CD player **£6,995**

54 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 2.0i 16v Exclusive 5-Dr Auto Estate.** Silver, PAS, automatic digital air conditioning, remote central locking, electric front/rear windows, 15" Melbourne wheels, radio/CD player .. **£6,495**

03 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.8i 16v SX 5-Dr Estate.** Beige, 51,500 miles, PAS, remote central door locking, electric windows, CD player .. **£3,995**

08 **CITROEN C5 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 4-Dr Diesel Saloon.** Black, 18,500 miles, ABS, Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, remote central locking, cruise control **£12,995**

05 **CITROEN C5 2.0i 16v Exclusive 5-Dr Auto Hatch.** Red, 53,100 miles, PAS, Dual Zone auto air conditioning, remote central locking & deadlocks, Suzuka alloy wheels, 6-CD autochanger **£6,995**

06 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-Dr Hatch.** Grey, 25,000 miles, PAS, air conditioning, remote central door locking, electric front windows, Tornado alloy wheels, RD3 radio/Mono CD **£6,495**

03 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.8i 16v SX 5-Dr Estate

08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 3-Dr Hatch

08 CITROEN C4 1.6i 16v Exclusive 5-Dr Hatch

56 CITROEN C2 1.6i 16v Code 3-Dr Hatch Special Edition

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- 58 Agila Design 1.2 5dr in Blue, 1500 miles £8295

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- 55 Corsa SXi 1.2 3dr in Black, 21,900 miles £5695
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- 06 Tigra Exclusiv 1.4 Cabriolet in Black, 30,000 miles £8695

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- 57 Vectra Design 1.8 5dr in Pannacotta, 18,252 miles £8295
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- 08 Renault Clio Dynamique 1.2 Turbo 4dr in Tempest, 12,088 miles £8995

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- 08 Lacetti SX 1.6 5dr in Poly Silver 5,828 miles £5995
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- 07 Amica GSX 1.1 5dr in Yellow, 5,000 miles £5495
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- 07 Amica GSX 1.1 AUTO 5dr in Yellow, Only 5,000 miles £5495
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- 08 Lacetti SX 1.6 5dr in Poly Silver, Only 5,828 miles £5995
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05 **PEUGEOT 206 CC Quicksilver 1.6.** Finished in met silver with Quicksilver trim, alloys, climate control, cd, 38k . . . **£6795**
54 **PEUGEOT 307 CC 2.0.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 34k **£6995**

SPORTS/EXECUTIVE

57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI (Diesel) (150bhp) 16v SRI.** Met black, **full black leather,** sports seats, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k **£10295**
07 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.6 VXR 3-Dr.** Finished in met black, **half leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, sports seats, 23k **£10995**
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55 **JAGUAR X-Type Sport 2.0 V6 Auto.** Finished in black, **with black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 49k **£7995**
05 **PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTi 180 3-dr.** Finished in metallic silver with **black leather suede upholstery,** sports seats, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 25k **£6695**
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05 **RENAULT Megane Sport Tourer Dynamique 1.9 DCi (Diesel) Estate.** Met grey, alloys, climate, cd, fsh, 1 owner . . **£4695**
05 **FORD Mondeo LX 2.0 TDCi (Diesel) Estate.** Finished in platinum met, a/c, cd, pas, c/l, e/w, 1 owner, fsh **£4195**
05 **RENAULT Laguna Expression 2.0 16v Sport Tourer.** Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, electric sunroof, 74k **£3995**
54 **FORD Focus C-Max 1.8LX 5-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio, cd, 37k **£4995**
53 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Club 5-dr.** Finished in met green, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, **7-seats,** 55k **£3995**
03 **NISSAN Almera Tino S 1.8 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, c/l, e/w, climate control, 43k **£3695**

FAMILY CARS

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56 **CITROEN C4 VTR+ 1.6 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, climate, cd, 24k **£6295**
06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate T 3-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£6295**
06 **CITROEN C4 1.4 VT Coupe.** Finished in met grey, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 37k **£4995**
06 **PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 31k **£5995**
06/55 **FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr.** Finished in panther black met, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, FSH, 40k **£6795**
55 **VOLKSWAGEN Passat SE 2.0 TDi (Diesel) 4-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, 6-speed, 1 owner, fsh, 63k **£6795**
55 **RENAULT Megane Oasis 1.4 5-dr.** Finished in met red, a/c, cd, panoramic s/r, 28k **£4795**
05 **TOYOTA Corolla T3 D4D (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 48k **£6495**
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03 **ROVER 75 1.8T Club SE 4-dr.** Finished in met. blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, alloys **£3195**
52 **FORD Focus Ghia 1.8 TDCi (Diesel). 4-dr.** Finished in machine silver with **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd,s/r, 74k **£3495**
51 **TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi GS 5-dr.** Finished in met red, a/c, radio, cd, pas, c/l, e/w, 67k **£2695**
Y **VW Passat 2.0 SE 4-dr.** Finished in met blue with **full beige leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, 88k **£2995**
Y **FORD Focus Ghia 1.8 TDDI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Pacific met green, pas, c/l, a/c, cd, 56k **£2995**
Y **MAZDA 323 1.6 GSi 5-Dr.** Finished in blue met., alloys, a/c, cd **£2695**

SMALL CARS

57 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr.** Finished in jeans blue met, pas, a/c, radio/cd, e/w, 10k **£6795**
57 **SMART Fortwo Pure 71 Auto**. Finished in black, pas, r/c/l, cd, 6k, only £35 per year road tax **£5995**
07 **FORD Fiesta Zetec Climate 1.4 TDCI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 42k, only £35 per year road tax . . . **£6795**
56 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3-dr.** Finished in metallic moondust silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 48k **£6195**
56 **CITROEN C3 Desire 1.4 HDi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in wicked red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£5795**
56 **HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSI 3-dr.** Met ice blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 27k **£4695**
06 **PEUGEOT 206 Verve 1.4 HDI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, 36k **£5995**
06 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve** Finished in black, sports seats, alloys, a/c, cd, 37k **£5995**
06 **CITROEN C3 1.1 Desire 5-dr.** Finished in mauritius blue, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 9k **£5495**
05 **MAZDA 2 1.4 Antares 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, 27k **£3195**
05 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2S 3-dr.** Finished in Mars red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, 34k **£4995**
54 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.5 DCi (Diesel) 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, sunroof, cd, 70k. only £35 a year tax . . . **£4495**
04 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 T3 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, c/l, e/w, pas, 48k **£4995**
04 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd **£4295**
04 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 Finesse 3-dr.** Finished in forest green, pas, cd **£3995**
53 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 3-dr.** Finished in red, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 35k **£4495**
53 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Fever 3-dr.** Finished in moonstone blue, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 39k **£3995**
53 **NISSAN Micra 1.2S 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 56k **£3495**
53 **FORD Ka 1.3** finished in met black, pas, radio/cd, alloys **£3195**
03/52 **FORD KA 1.3 Style.** Finished in met silver, pas, drivers air bag, radio cass, insurance group 3, 39k **£2595**
02 **VOLKSWAGEN Lupo 1.4E 3-dr.** Finished in black, pas, rear wash/wipe, 67k **£3495**
02 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.6 3-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd **£3295**
Y **PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Style 3-dr.** Finished in crystal met green, pas, c/l, e/w, cd **£2695**

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06 **FORD Transit 280 SWB (Diesel)** Finished in white, low roof, side loading door, ply lined, 53k . . . . . **£4895+VAT**
06 **VAUXHALL Vivaro 1.9 CDTi SWB (Diesel)** Finished in white, side loading door, ply lined, 59k . . . . . **£4895+VAT**
56 **FORD Transit Connect 200 (Diesel)** Finished in white, side loading door, ply lined, 62k . . . . . **£3995+VAT**
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GEM sport

Munster mash gives Lions coach much to chew on as Blues Cup semi-final also raises some key questions

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

NO doubt Lions' head coach Ian McGeechan will have heaved a sigh of relief that two hugely-contested semi-finals of the Heineken Cup, featuring a clutch of his charges, were safely negotiated at the weekend without further additions to his pre-tour injury list.

Of course, he cannot relax just yet, for there are a few more games to be played before he finally leads his men on to the plane for South Africa, including the Heineken Cup final in Edinburgh on May 23.

However, pre-tour casualties are surely not the only cause for concern as he reflects on the stunning outcomes at Croke Park, Dublin on Saturday and the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, on Sunday – not least the composition of his chosen British Isles tour party.

Take that thrilling all-Irish clash where Leinster hurled the form book out of the window in ruthlessly dismantling the tournament favourites Munster 25-6.

It was a comprehensive victory that saw the vaunted Munstermen surprisingly out-played (and out-thought) forward and back by fired-up opponents who gave them no respite from first whistle to last.

While the match played out in front of 82,300 wildly-cheering spectators was a wonderful advertisement for the Heineken Cup competition, and for rugby in general, the Lions' management may have viewed it with slightly more rueful feelings.

After all, given that the surprisingly outmuscled Munster pack contained no fewer than five forwards earmarked to take on the formidable Springboks, it did not bode well for the far greater challenge that lies ahead next month.

The struggle being lost up front merely served to highlight Ronan O'Gara's perceived frailties under pressure, a matter of concern given that the Lions have opted to take only two outside halves to South Africa. That decision may now have to be urgently revised.

'Geech' will also muse on the worrying fact that the possible Lions' second row of Paul O'Connell (tour skipper) and Donncha O'Callaghan were eclipsed by their opposite numbers in the white heat of battle.

Meanwhile, in contrast, the man controversially rejected as captain, Brian O'Driscoll, removed any doubt over *his* assured Test place by leading from the front with an inspiring man-of-the-match display in the Leinster midfield.

On Sunday, came the dramatic events of the other semi final at the Millennium Stadium where Cardiff Blues and Leicester Tigers fought almost to a standstill in front of 44,312 rapt spectators.

Errors and penalties there were in plenty on both sides as the pendulum of fortune swung, though the Blues were fortunate to go in at half time just 12-13 down through two penalties each from young Leigh Halfpenny and Ben Blair.

Tigers had replied with a converted try and two penalties, but missed three other penalties that could have opened an unassailable first half gap.

Immediately after the resumption, Leicester forged ahead with a converted try and when they followed this with two more penalties to make the score 12-26 in their favour, it seemed all up for the Blues, even after the Midlanders received two yellow cards and, for a few minutes, were even down to 13 men.

With time running out to the final whistle, the capital team remembered how they had won their way to the semi-final and ran in two tries in four minutes through Jamie Roberts and Tom James. Both were converted by Blair (making amends for an otherwise lacklustre display at fullback).

With the score locked on 26-26 after extra time, and with players going down with cramp in scenes more akin to Wembley, the stalemate was to be finally settled by a penalty shoot-out, culminating in an unprecedented 'sudden death' climax.

In a cruel twist of fate, the incomparable Martyn Williams was the luckless one who watched with dismay as his effort sailed wide of the uprights. Leicester number 8 Jordan Crane then slotted over to send his team in to the 2009 Heineken Cup final against Leinster in the most unsatisfactory of circumstances.

While in truth the English giants arguably had the edge overall, there must surely be a better way to decide a rugby match of such magnitude (not least financially) than unfairly placing the onus on non-kicking forwards who are simply not equipped for this high-pressure situation.

If a replay is not possible, the Heineken competition organisers should allow the shoot-out to be decided by a stipulated number of recognised kickers in the two teams, rather than risk a result that could be both unfair and unjust.

The match did at least give Ian McGeechan the satisfaction of seeing all of his Blues contingent acquit themselves well – in particular, Jamie Roberts and Halfpenny.

While Leicester has so far dipped below the Lions' radar, McGeechan could not fail to have been impressed by another man of-the-match performance from rugged forward Tom Croft, particularly in the light of the Munster mash by unfancied Leinster.

Who knows, that might yet prompt a telephone call not only to Leicester, but to a certain Ryan Jones, another strange absentee from the selected Lions' party.

Razzaq and Hellyar star with the ball

Mixed fortunes for the 'Stags' in season openers

IT was a fine day for the opening league game between Barry 1st XI and Vale CC, as the Stags aim to begin their push for promotion, back to Division One.

Vale CC won the toss and elected to field first, on what was a damp, green wicket.

Despite the bowler friendly conditions, there were some impressive batting performances from new signing Anjan Ganapathy (73), Nathan Baker (53) and Ian Gadd (25).

Other batsmen chipped in with extra runs and Barry 1st XI completed a satisfying innings with 208-9 from their 50 overs (the first time that Barry 1st XI have batted their allocated overs since season 2007). Pick of the Vale CC bowlers was John Davies, as he picked up 5-53 from his 15 overs to keep the Stags on their toes.

The second innings began with frustration from the Vale CC batsmen, as they were unable to cope with the dominant Stag attack. Wickets falling became a regular occurrence as Vale CC were restricted to 126-9 with only 15 overs.

However, that didn't stop the No 8 batsman, N Hogben. He, along with No 11, J Taylor, ensured that the game would have a tense finish. A final wicket partnership of 59 gave Vale CC a slight chance of pinching the game.

However, this wasn't the case as the bowling trio of Zahid Razzaq (4-39), Peter Hellyar (4-43) and Nathan Baker (2-29) gave Barry a first win of the season and 19 points to top the table.

A win from Barry 1st XI was balanced by a defeat for the Seconds in the opening game, away at Panteg CC.

Despite some key players out injured, the Stags were still able to field 11 players. On what was a very soft and bowler friendly pitch, Barry skipper, Peter Davies, won the toss and elected to 'bat' first.

A strange decision was soon rectified by the skipper, when opening batsmen and father and son partnership, Peter and Owain Davies, were firing from all cylinders. Both batsmen got settled in, but fell shortly after when Peter mis-timed a ball to mid-off and Owain was unluckily run out for 23.

Despite many battling displays (including Jake Griffith's contribution of 19) and a vital contribution from the extras column (44), Barry were bowled out for 142 in the 47th over. This meant that Panteg were given 52 overs to reach 143 in order to win.

After tea, the second innings began. Barry knew that if they were to win, they would have to take some early wickets. This wasn't the case as opening partnership, Joe Myers and Jake Griffith, kept it tight in the first 10 overs, with only 44 runs on the board for Panteg.

The first bowling changes finally brought some wickets, as Barry looked to put some pressure on Panteg. This pressure also caused a run-out by wicketkeeper, Peter Davies, and a superb one-handed catch from Jake Griffith, diving to his right.

This, however, didn't stop Panteg as they reached 143-3 in 31 overs. Despite this, there were some decent bowling performances, including Jake Griffith (5-1-11-0), Ashley Baker (6-0-14-0) and Mike Hayes (6-0-21-2), while 'Stag of the Match' was given to Jake Griffith, with an outstanding all-round display.

Next weekend sees Barry 1st XI visiting Porth & Ton Pentre CC, while Barry 2nd XI host bitter rivals, Newport Fugitives CC.

ASHLEY BAKER

Romilly bowlers 'wake up' and come from behind to seal win

BARRY Romilly Bowling Club played its first competitive match on Saturday in the WBA Carruthers Cup.

On a fine sunny day and an improving Romilly green, the opponents Belle Vue Bowling Club arrived and were welcomed as old friends should be.

Play commenced and Belle Vue took a seven-shot lead after the first two ends which woke up the Romilly players instantly.

Alan Bryan's rink of H Jones, R Hewitson and J Jones had the most competitive match and led 10-4 after nine ends.

The Belle Vue team led by skip M Thomas, then rallied and drew level 17-17 after 18 ends, from which point Romilly finished the game 20-19. Skip Alan Bryan was most relieved by the win and complimented Ray Hewitson's part in the victory.

Richard Cowlin's rink of C Geen, G Eastment and M Gershenson had a good result, winning their rink by 23-15. Richard was full of praise for Cyril Geen's contribution to the win.

Brian Foscolo's rink of M Newman, D Bannister and M Doyle had a strong game and led from start to finish winning 25-16.

D Wright's rink of A Freeman, R Harkus and G Cogbill won their rink by the highest margin of 30-7 after a good all round performance.

Romilly won 98-57.

RH

FOR MORE SPORT, INCLUDING A REPORT ON BARRY SWIMMING CLUB'S ANNUAL GALA, TURN TO PAGE 26

Cadoxton Imps' summer ball

CADOXTON IMPS FC is holding a summer ball on Saturday, June 13 at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry – 7.30pm.

Tickets are £25 purchased in advance from chairman Martin Pursall on 01446 722299 or secretary Gary Spierling on 01446 407591.

The event is not restricted to senior players, managers or parents of the current Imps' teams.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the 37th year since the Imps were founded.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes for a raffle, should call Martin or Gary on the above numbers, or bring them along on the night.

All profits raised from the event will go to the Imps.

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